

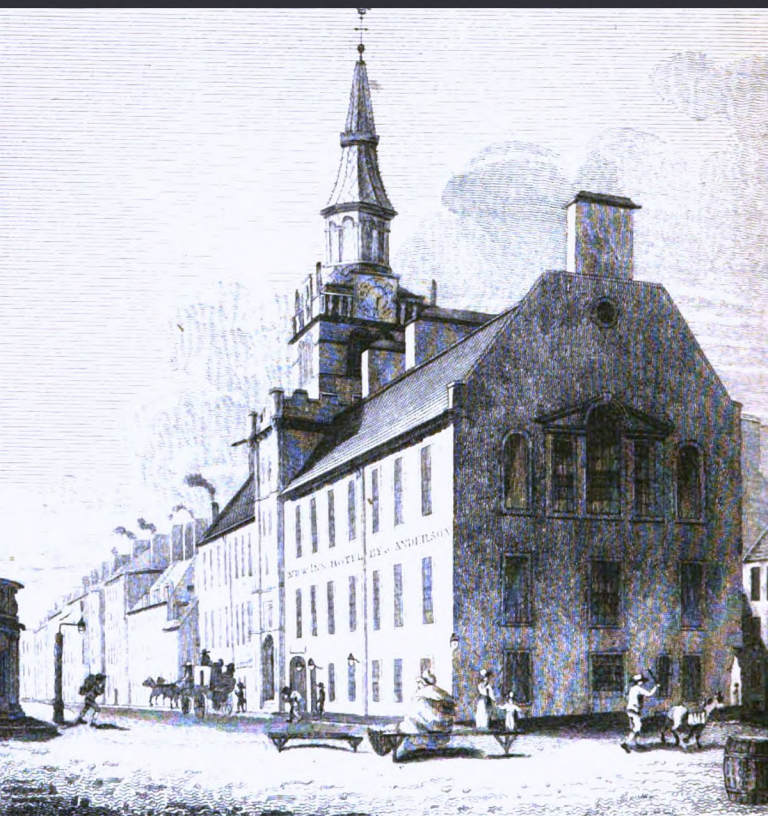
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# *An historical account and delineation of Aberdeen*

Robert Wilson

Gough  
Scotland

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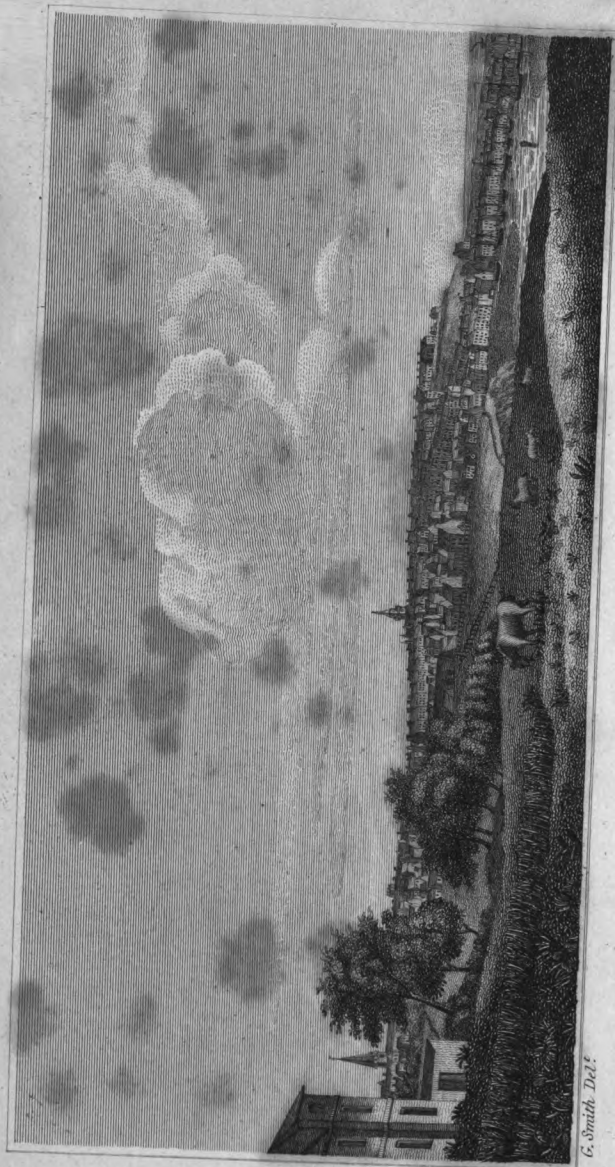












G. Smith Del.

ABERDEEN FROM THE SOUTH WEST.

Eng.<sup>d</sup> by J. Moffat Edin.<sup>r</sup>

Published by James Johnston Aberdeen.

**AN  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
AND  
DELINEATION OF  
A B E R D E E N.**

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**By ROBERT WILSON, A. M.**

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**EMBELLISHED  
WITH BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVINGS  
OF THE PRINCIPAL BRIDGES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND SACRED EDIFICES IN AND ABOUT  
THE CITY.**

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**PRINTED FOR  
AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES JOHNSTON,  
UNION-STREET, ABERDEEN.**

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**1822.**



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**GLASGOW :**  
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Printers to the University.

TO THE  
NOBILITY AND GENTRY,  
COMPOSING THE  
UNITED MEETING  
OF THE COUNTIES OF  
ABERDEEN, FORFAR, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE,  
THIS  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT AND DELINEATION  
OF  
ABERDEEN,  
WITH ITS VIEW OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, AND ITS  
VARIOUS VIEWS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c. &c.  
IS VERY HUMBLY INSCRIBED,  
BY THEIR FAITHFUL SERVANT,  
JAMES JOHNSTON.

UNION-STREET, }  
18th June, 1822. }





## ADVERTISEMENT.

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NOTWITHSTANDING that *two* works on the History of Aberdeen, have been published within the last 11 years, yet both are destitute of those requisites, which are necessary to render them of general utility. The "History of Aberdeen," written by Mr. Thom, and published in 1811, was too profuse, in matters of general history, and too sparing of information, of a local nature. The "Annals of Aberdeen," written by William Kennedy, Esq., and published in 1818, while it fully answered its title, and, as such, received the highest praise, was, after all, devoid of that systematic account of the present state of our Public Buildings, Institutions, Associations, Philanthropic Societies, and Religious Denominations, &c. &c. which is indispensable, to guide the citizen, as well as the stranger, to a thorough acquaintance with the city; besides, it was deficient in information respecting many things of considerable importance to both. But correct and elegant engravings of our Public Buildings, &c. was a still greater desideratum, as these tend to give to local works of this kind substantial value; but of these, both Mr. Thom's and Mr. Kennedy's works were entirely destitute. The Publisher, however, of this Historical Account and Delineation of Aberdeen, flatters himself, that he has supplied all these deficiencies, in a manner creditable to himself, and

worthy of the city. In the possession of this work, the citizen will become thoroughly acquainted with every thing of importance, connected with the History and Topography of the City; while the stranger, with the utmost facility, may gain the same advantages; and those who have been long absent from the city, in distant parts of the world, may aid their early remembrance of places endeared to them by the recollections of youth, from the correct and beautiful engravings with which the work is accompanied.

The Publisher begs leave to tender his thanks to many official, and other gentlemen, who favoured the Editor and himself with information, or afforded facilities for its attainment; and also to acknowledge the assistance derived from Mr. Kennedy's valuable work, the highest deference having been paid to his authority, and where he has now and then availed himself of this, it is given as a quotation, without reference.

He trusts that the haste with which the work has been brought through the press, owing to the *unhandsome* attempt of another bookseller to crush this undertaking, will form a sufficient apology for any mistakes and imperfections which may have unavoidably crept in.

He also gladly avails himself of this opportunity, gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of those friends, who, unsolicited, stepped forward, and fostered his undertaking, by every means in their power.

UNION-STREET, ABERDEEN, }  
18th June, 1822. }

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# ABERDEEN.

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## 1.

### HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CITY.

ON considering the influence which interest exerts on the views, purposes, and actions of men; and also the prominence which the principle of association holds in the animal world, we should be led to infer, that villages, towns, and cities would be reared with a promptitude similar to that which we discover in the accomplishing of ends which take their rise from the instinctive principles and first reasonings of the subjects of a rude and uncultivated state of existence.—So far is this from being the case, that we find an advanced state of civilization is necessary for the founding, ruling, and adorning of cities. We need not, therefore, be surprised, were we able to trace the period when the extensive and populous city of Aberdeen consisted of a few thatched houses, scattered on the banks of the river Dee.

Aberdeen is situated on rising ground, having in some places an easy, and in others a difficult ascent, from the channel of the river. Its latitude is  $57^{\circ} 8'. 59''$ . N. and longitude  $2^{\circ} 8'$ . W. Its distance from



the influx of the river into the German ocean, is about one mile. Its circumference, exclusive of Futtie or Footdee on the east, and Gilcomston on the west, measures about 4500 yards.

As our best historians have despaired of obtaining authentic information concerning our highly favoured island, previous to the period of the Roman invasion ; it would be deemed futile for us to form conjectures, or pretend research, beyond what Roman writers, and others who had derived their information from them, have left recorded on the page of genuine history. Claudius Ptolemeus of Alexandria, who flourished about the middle of the second century, and Ricardus Corinensis, or Richard of Cirencester, a monk of the fourteenth century, both describe *Devana*—a town of the *Taixali*, as situated on the banks of the river *Deva*, or *Dee*, at a small distance from the influx of this river into the German ocean. It does not, however, appear that the natives adopted the name which the Romans gave to the town ; for in ancient records, the town is designated by *Aberdon* or *Aberdoen*, which latinized became *Aberdonia* or *Abredonia*. In later times the word was written *Aberdene*. Great difference subsists with regard to the etymology of the word, some referring it to the old English, and others to the Erse or Gaelic language. The following quotation is from the pen of the late Mr. M'Lachlan, Master of the Grammar School, Old Aberdeen:—"The Gaelic name for Aberdeen is *Obairreadhain*, (pron. *Oberrayn*.) This vocable, according to some etymologists, is resolved into *Abair*, (*Aber*,) the bank or space of ground near the entrance, and *Da-abhuim*, (*Da-awin*) two

rivers, viz. the Dee and Don,—an analysis exactly descriptive of the local circumstance." The second definition is supported by the fact, that, in the beginning of the 18th century, the efflux of the river Don was as near the town as that of the river Dee; and if we credit historical records, both rivers, in ancient times, uniting their streams, passed through the mouth of the present harbour.

Tradition asserts that Gregory the Great, king of Scotland, who had his principal residence at Dunodeer, a place lying about 25 miles north-west of Aberdeen, erected the town into a royal borough; but although this account is flattering to our vanity, we must not fly in the face of the highest improbability; for it does not appear that charters were given to boroughs prior to the reign of king William the Lyon. That Gregory afforded protection to Aberdeen, and conferred benefits on its ecclesiastics, will be admitted, when it is considered, that the town was then under the domain of its sovereign. Records, however, testify that king William, by a charter dated at Perth, granted to his burgesses of Aberdeen the free enjoyment of their merchandise, after the manner which their ancestors had exercised, in the time of Malcom his grandfather. He gave two other charters, dated at Aberdeen, by which his burgesses were exempted from paying tolls and customs in any market or fair within the kingdom. He also erected, near the east end of the green, an edifice for his occasional residence, and dignified it with the title of palace. He likewise established, near the south end of Castle-Street, an exchequer where money was coined during his reign.

King Alexander II. along with his sister, the princess Isabella, visited the town, about the year 1222, and remained in it during the christmas festival. He granted and confirmed to the borough the same laws and liberties which his predecessors had given to the borough of Perth, with the privilege of holding their weekly fair on the sabbath.

In the years 1244 and 1264, Aberdeen was destroyed by accidental fire. This calamity was not peculiar to Aberdeen, for in the same century, Haddington, Roxburgh, Lanark, Stirling, Perth, Forfar, and Montrose suffered by a similar misfortune.

The castle of Aberdeen was, at the mandate of Edward I. of England, in the year 1292, delivered into the hands of Baliol, the competitor of the Lord of Annandale. Edward afterward assuming a right to the sovereignty of Scotland, invaded it with a powerful army, and after having brought the south into complete subjection, proceeded northward by Aberdeen, and terminated his expedition at Elgin. Resistance to the power of Edward's army would have been unavailing; hence, the castle of Aberdeen fell into the hands of the English, and continued in their possession during the interregnum. In the course of these events, Sir William Wallace, the renowned champion of Scotland, assumed the title of Governor of the kingdom, and with peculiar bravery and fortitude, attempted to rescue his degraded country from the usurped dominion of the English conqueror. Having collected a little band of kindred spirits, he made trial of his fortune, and on gaining several advantages in the south, directed his career to the north.

Hastening to the castle of Dunnottar, he took it by surprise, and put every soul of the garrison to the sword. Aberdeen next became the object of his attention. The enemy, intimidated by the victor's approach, embarked on board their fleet, leaving a strong garrison in the fortress; but not without first showing the spirit of their master, by plundering the town, and then setting it on fire. Wallace bravely attacked the castle, but being baffled in his attempt, he raised the siege, and retired into Angus. After experiencing several reverses of fortune, the glory of the Scottish nation was, in the year 1305, basely betrayed into the hands of his deadliest enemy; and bearing his misfortunes with heroic fortitude, magnanimously submitted to the ignominious death of a traitor. In order that the valiant defenders of their national independence in the north might be intimidated, one of the hero's mangled limbs was sent to Aberdeen to be exposed to the public gaze of friends and foes.

In the year 1306, Robert Bruce, grandson of the Lord of Annandale, resolutely asserted his claim to the crown of Scotland. His first attempts proved unsuccessful. After enduring many privations, he was at length, together with his wife and children, reduced to the necessity of taking refuge in the mountains of Aberdeenshire. At last he found himself at the head of a considerable army, principally composed of the inhabitants of Aberdeen, with which he attacked a large body of English troops, that were under the command of John de la Mowbray and John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, near the hill of Barra, between Oldmeldrum and Inverury. The English suffered a signal defeat:

and the Earl of Buchan soon after felt the effects of Bruce's vengeance. The citizens, flushed with success, hastened to Aberdeen; and taking the castle by storm, put the garrison to the sword, and levelled the fortifications with the ground. The English, rallying their forces from all quarters, quickly marched against the town; but the citizens, and other partizans of Bruce, promptly gave them battle, and defeated them with immense slaughter. In retaliation of past atrocities, the conquerors put many of their prisoners to death, although the canons of Aberdeen humanely interceded for their lives. King Robert granted to the citizens, for their valour on this occasion, permission to substitute the present, for the former, armorial bearings of the town, and to assume the motto "*Bon Accord*," which was the watch-word of that memorable day. According to popular tradition, those compassionate ecclesiastics imposed on the citizens, as a penance for their cruelty, the necessity of repairing every Sunday, to the chapel of St. Ninian, within the ramparts of the castle, in order to offer up prayers for the souls of those whom they had barbarously put to death. This practice continued during the age of popery.

The death of Edward I. devolved on the British prince a task, for the performance of which, he apparently was wholly incompetent. The old king with his dying breath, besought his son to complete and secure the subjugation of his troublesome neighbours the Scots. In pursuance of this injunction, Edward II. gave special orders to William le Betour, captain of the fleet which was lying on the eastern coast of Scotland, that he should proceed to Aberdeen, and attempt the

recovery of the castle, it being the only fortress of the kingdom not in his possession. No attempt, however, appears to have been made. Soon after, king Robert, by his various successes, especially by the victory obtained at Bannockburn, produced a thorough change in the affairs of the nation. Having expelled Edward from the kingdom, Robert, without delay, directed his attention to the civil state of his lately distracted country. Aberdeen, the earliest and most loyal of his boroughs, became the peculiar object of his gratitude; for its burgesses received not fewer than six charters, during his subsequent reign. The king honoured the town with a visit also, in the month of September, 1319, and was received by the community with every mark of loyalty.

After the death of the king, there broke out a civil war, which was attended with the usual calamities, and, as might have been expected, an abundant portion of them was administered to the citizens of Aberdeen. Robert's son and successor, David II., and his consort, Johanna, had been annointed and crowned at Scone, but such was the state of affairs, in consequence of Edward Baliol's attempt for the crown, that it was found requisite to provide for them a place of safe retreat in France. Baliol, having invaded the country with a great army, was soon put in quiet possession of the kingdom, and crowned at Scone, the 24th September 1332. David's friends, however, were not long in recruiting their strength, and trying the field. King Edward, on learning this revolt, invaded the kingdom both by sea and land, and forming a junction with Baliol's army at Perth, penetrated, by the way of Athol,

as far as Inverness. While Edward's army was scouring the country in the north, Sir Thomas Roscelyn, with a body of English troops, landed at Dunnotter, and marched directly to Aberdeen. The citizens and other partizans of David met him in the Green, near the Denburn. A fierce battle ensued. The English came off victorious; yet not without severe loss, for their commander, and many besides, were mortally wounded. The inhabitants, overwhelmed with terror, fled from the town; but being pursued by their infuriate enemies, many of them were overtaken and slain. The town was next pillaged and set on fire. The fire continued its ravages for six days, until the whole was reduced to ashes. This catastrophe happened in the year 1336. Five years after, king David, with his queen, returned from France, and was once more settled on the throne. He resided occasionally in Aberdeen; and held his first parliament there, in the year 1343. Not unmindful of its services and privations in behalf of the crown, he granted the burgesses several charters, by which their immunities and privileges were confirmed; and rendered them considerable aid in their exertions to raise the city to its former state. From this period, the city has been denominated New Aberdeen, and is thus distinguished from the neighbouring city—Old Aberdeen, anciently known by the name of Kirktown of Seaton.

Aberdeen was third in the roll of boroughs, which sent commissioners to the parliament that met in Edinburgh, in the year 1357, for the purpose of concerting measures to obtain the ransom of David, who had been kept a prisoner in England, since the 17th October

1346, when the unfortunate battle at Nevill's Cross was fought. It also had the honour of forming one of the four boroughs whose commissioners agreed to pay the stipulated ransom.

In the reign of Robert II. who was David's nephew and successor, and the first of the family of the Stuarts, war again broke out between England and Scotland. The parliament which Robert assembled in order that means might be devised for making an incursion into England, met at Aberdeen. From several charters dated at Aberdeen, it would appear, that the king frequently visited the town in the course of his progresses through the kingdom.

James, Robert's son and successor, was, after his father's death, seized by the English during a truce, and detained a captive in England for many years. The nobility, divided by mutual jealousies, and inveterate animosities, lived in a state of perpetual hostility. Of those who were most turbulent and formidable was Donald, Lord of the Isles. About the year 1408, the earldom of Ross, on the death of its earl, fell into the hands of the Duke of Albany, Robert's brother, then Regent of the kingdom; but Donald, on the other hand, asserted his claim to the estate, in right of his wife—the presumptive heiress. Encouraged with promises made by the king of England, with whom he had formerly entered into alliance, Donald raised an army of 10,000 men, and passing into Ross-shire, took possession of the disputed lands without opposition. Augmenting his army by the vassals on the property, and other highlanders who flocked to his standard, he advanced southward, and invaded the fertile provinces of Moray,



Strathbogie, and the Garioch. He next directed his course toward Aberdeen. The citizens, ambitious of showing their loyalty, or dreading the approach of such ruthless invaders, put themselves under the command of their alderman, Sir Robert Davidson, and forming a junction with an army of knights and vassals collected by the Earl of Mar, the Regent's nephew, bravely joined battle with the desolating foe, at a place called Harlaw, near Inverury, and about 14 miles north of the town. So fiercely contested was the engagement, that night, rather than victory, separated the combatants. Among the many valiant citizens who were honourably numbered among the slain, was their worthy alderman and intrepid commander, Sir Robert Davidson. His body was brought to the city, and entombed, with all due honours, in the north wall of St. Nicholas' Church.

In the year 1424, Aberdeen, along with three other boroughs, entered into a bond securing the payment of 50,000 merks Scots, for the liberation of their king from captivity, David Menzies, burgess of Aberdeen, and a person of great affluence, was one of those who were selected as hostages, in order to guaranty the payment of the money. The distracted state of affairs, consequent on the barbarous murder of this prince, rendered it expedient for the community of Aberdeen to court the patronage of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. Him, therefore, they invested with the highest civil and military authority in the town, under the titles of captain and governor—a union of offices which none before or after him ever enjoyed.

In the month of July 1448, James II. paid his first visit to Aberdeen. The magistrates and citizens, in

their respective capacities, vied with each other in testifying their loyalty on the occasion. Seven years after, the queen conferred on the city a similar honour, and was received with corresponding marks of respect.

In 1488, several of the nobility, incensed at the conduct of James III. entered into a combination for the purpose of dethroning him. Among the rebels were found, the Duke of Albany, and the Earl of Mar, the king's brothers, and also his eldest son, who put himself at the head of the insurgents. James assembled an army of 30,000 men, and joined battle with the enemies of his throne near Bannockburn. His army was completely routed, and he himself seeking safety in flight, was overtaken by his pursuers, and slain in the vicinity of Stirling. In the month of September 1489, Lord Forbes and other lords repaired to Aberdeen, carrying on the point of a spear the bloody shirt of the murdered king. The citizens readily acquiesced in certain resolutions proposed to them. These resolutions referred particularly "to the bringing of the traitors who had put to death their late sovereign, to condign punishment; to the reformation of the government of the king's treasury; and to the protection of his sacred person."

About the same time, the citizens had determined to take up arms in resistance of a claim made by Sir Andrew Wood of Largo, Admiral of Scotland under the late king, who professed to have received a right to the forest of Stocket and the Castle-hill, by a grant from King James III. The magistrates, however, allayed the ferment thus excited, by bringing the matter before the king and lords of the council, by whom Sir

Andrew's claim was set aside, in consequence of the superior right of the citizens, who had received a charter from king Robert Bruce.

King James IV. visited the town frequently, and experienced, on such occasions, the bounty of the community, which was sometimes even beyond their ability.

In the year 1525, Alexander Seaton of Meldrum, John Leslie of Wardhouse, and William Leslie of Balquhain, powerful barons of the Garioch, entered the town along with certain confederates, on Sunday the 1st October, in order to take revenge on the inhabitants for some supposed injury. A sanguinary conflict ensued. Such, however, was the bravery of the citizens displayed in the affair, that the assailants were soon obliged to seek safety in flight. Eighty of the inhabitants were either killed or wounded. Some of the magistrates were in the number. The citizens immediately put the town into a posture of defence, and made a formal complaint to the king and the lords of the council: but the business, not having been settled, was afterward submitted to the arbitration of certain lords and bishops who were mutually chosen as umpires. Soon after, Seaton of Meldrum was killed by the Master of Forbes in the house of Gilbert Menzies, the provost of the town; while the master of Forbes was, in a short time, convicted of treason, and beheaded on a scaffold.

In the year 1527, the Gipsies or Egyptians, under Eiken Jaks, as their leader, made their appearance in Aberdeen. John Faw, distinguished by the title of Lord or Earl of Little Egypt, and his brother George, with their company, fixed their residence in the town,

They however became so audacious and turbulent, that it was, at length, found necessary to banish them from the city. The Earl, his wife, and his sister, were excepted from this act of proscription.

Lord Forbes, whose principal residence was at Castle-Forbes, a man much attached to the interests of the community by ties of the strictest alliance, had long been in the custom of receiving from the magistrates an annual present of a tun of wine, which had been given to him for his care in preserving from depredation the salmon-fishings on the two rivers. The present, owing to a certain circumstance, had been withheld for some years previous to 1530. At that period, his Lordship demanded his wine. The magistrates, on the other hand, refused to comply with his demand. In consequence of this refusal, John Forbes of Pitsligo, Arthur Forbes of Brux, and a great number of their confederates, invaded the town on the 30th July. A desperate conflict ensued. The assailants were overpowered, and obliged to take refuge in the Grey Friars' Place. Permission was given them to retire from the town. Lawborrows being issued against Lord Forbes and his kinsmen, terminated the strife; and some years after, the relations of amity were once more restored. The opposition which the citizens made to the schemes of these factious barons, appears not to have been displeasing to the king; for, in the conclusion of a letter addressed to the magistrates, he said, "that he wished them to live in liberty and freedom like burgesses, and to oppose landed men or barons." He told them, that, in doing so, they were to take his letter for their authority.

In the course of the year 1542, the town was put into a posture of defence, in consequence of an expected war with England. Guards, formed of citizens, were placed on the different ports; and a boom, composed of masts and iron chains, was thrown across the mouth of the harbour, in order to prevent an attack by sea. Notwithstanding these local preparations, the city was obliged to furnish, equip, and maintain its quota of 100 men, for the purpose of invading England.

Two years after, Donald, Lord of the Isles, taking advantage of the situation of the country, then distracted by reason of an invasion which had been effected by the English, threatened a hostile attack on the Earldom of Ross. The Earl of Huntly, who was at the time Lord Lieutenant of the north, being incensed against the magistrates of Aberdeen for permitting several of the inhabitants to withdraw from the town, and by this means weakening its defence, assumed the management of the civil and military affairs of the city. He compelled the community to furnish 100 men, and provide the same with provisions for twenty days. This quota of men was destined to join an army which was then advancing northward to oppose the Lord of the Isles. The Earl was elected Provost in the month of January next year, and re-elected at the subsequent Michaelmas. This is the only instance of a nobleman's being appointed chief magistrate of Aberdeen.

In 1547, Scotland was again invaded by the English. A quota of men was, as usual, required of Aberdeen. Few of them returned from the field of battle, for 10,000 of the Scots fell on the occasion.

In the end of the year 1559, a body of the Reformers,

who were distinguished by the name of *The Congregation*, directed their desolating course to the city of Aberdeen. The magistrates, having been apprized of their intention, took measures for preserving the town's archives and public records, and also the great eucharist, and some other sacred utensils of silver. The Reformers entered the town on the 29th December, and proceeded to their ruthless work of destruction. Their first attack was directed against the great spire of St. Nicholas' Church. The citizens, loath to see their sacred edifice demolished, manfully repelled the Reformers, and thus prevented the accomplishment of their delapidating scheme. On the 4th January, next year, the Reformers proceeded to the Black Friars' Monastery, in the School-hill, and the Carmelite Friars' Place in the Green, and destroyed the buildings, carrying off all kinds of property contained within them. They advanced in the same tumultuous manner, to the Monastery of the Grey Friars, on the east side of Broad-street, and stripping the church of the lead and slates with which it was covered, carried the whole away. The citizens, who, by this time, had been abettors of *The Congregation*, quietly permitted the Reformers to proceed thus far in their strange work; but being urged by motives connected with the public good of the city, resolved, at last, to prevent further delapidation. The Reformers afterward "proceeded in a body to the old town, and being disappointed of the spoil of the jewels and sacred ornaments belonging to the cathedral, the greatest part of which had been previously secured by the Earl of Huntly and the canons, they wreaked the fury of their vengeance upon this venerable edifice, by stripping it of

its roof, and carrying off the lead as their booty, along with the three valuable bells which had been presented to it by Bishop Elphinston. At the same time, they demolished the choir and chancel, on the east end, which was furnished with stalls for the accomodation of the priests in the celebration of mass. The further progress of the work of destruction was fortunately prevented by the timely interference of Huntly, who, by his exertions, saved the building from being completely destroyed. The lead of the church, along with the three bells, was, however, carried off by these sacrilegious people, and shipped at Aberdeen, for the purpose of being sold in Holland: but their avaricious views were disappointed; for the vessel, with the whole plunder, had scarcely left the harbour, when she sunk, within half a mile of it, near the Girdleness." Some time after, the magistrates and the citizens agreed to furnish 40 men for the service of *The Congregation*, and to use their utmost endeavours for the suppression of idolatry.

In the year 1562, the Earl of Huntly, and his third son, Sir John Gordon of Deskford, being incensed by various grievances, determined to resist the authority of Queen Mary. The Earl of Murray, who had the command of the Queen's army, attacked and routed Huntly's forces at Corrichie, near the hill of Fair, distant about twelve miles westward of the town. Huntly himself was slain, and his sons Sir John and Adam were taken prisoners. Adam, in consideration of his youth, was pardoned; but his brother was executed in the Castle-Street of Aberdeen; Mary in the meantime beholding the execution from the Earl

of Marischal's lodgings. John, on observing the queen at the window, fell on his knees, and looked her steadfastly in the face. Seeing the man whom she once tenderly loved in such a situation, was more than Mary could endure——she burst into tears.

Some years after, a few skirmishes took place between Adam Gordon and the Forbeses of Brux and Tulliangus. These were followed by a well contested battle which was fought at the Crabestone, on the south side of the town. The Forbeses were defeated, and the master of Forbes was taken prisoner. Sixty were slain on each side.

In the year 1589, king James VI. having formed a matrimonial alliance with Anne, second daughter of Frederick II. of Denmark, set out in quest of his bride, whom a violent storm had compelled to take shelter in Norway. Aberdeen, ambitious to display its loyalty, fitted out, at the expense of the community, a ship called the Nicholas, to form part of the squadron which was intended to convey their majesties to Scotland. The ship set sail on the 16th April, being completely armed, and decorated with 'ensigns, flags and streamers of war, red side-cloths, and gilded tops.'

King Charles I. unacquainted with the genius of his Scottish subjects, and inattentive to their religious scruples and prejudices, fearlessly attempted to impose upon them the forms of episcopacy as established in England. To this innovation, the clergy and the body of the people were opposed, from religious principles, and the barons, from interested motives. Four *tables*, as they were called, were formed in Edinburgh, consisting respectively of the nobility, gentry, ministers,



and burgesses. From these *tables* a general *table* was formed, which revised the proceedings, and put into execution the acts of the separate ones. Among the first fruits of their labour was the famous *Covenant*. The purport of the covenant was, "to oppose popery, prelacy, and every innovation by whomsoever made." In the year 1638, the commissioners of the *tables* made their appearance in Aberdeen, and solicited the inhabitants to subscribe the covenant. The ministers and people, being inclined to prelacy, and also loyal to their sovereign, objected to the authority of the *tables*, and refused compliance with their injunctions. Having proved unsuccessful in his endeavours to smother the flame that threatened to break out, Charles attempted to counteract the influence which the Covenanters had gained, by drawing up a covenant expressed in nearly the same words, on most points, which he proposed as a bond of union among his loyal adherents. On the 5th October, the Marquis of Huntly, being deputed by the Marquis of Hamilton, his Majesty's high commissioner, arrived in the town, and, on behalf of the king, presented to the magistrates the confession of faith and general bond for maintaining the true religion, and for protecting the king's person. These were immediately signed by the magistrates and council, two of the town's ministers, and the greater part of the inhabitants. Consequently, in the beginning of the next year, the Marquis required the service of all the loyalists between the ages of 16 and 45, and commanded them to join him on the 25th March. All his measures, however, were disconcerted by the sudden approach of the Covenanters' army, which consisted of

6000 horse and foot, under the command of Montrose, Marischal, and other noblemen. The army took possession of the town on the 30th March without opposition; and being reinforced by 2000 horse and foot, that had been collected by the master of Forbes and other barons, advanced to Kintore, and two days after proceeded to Inverury, where it encamped. A few days after, subscription of the covenant and the articles which had been annexed to it by order of the general assembly, was required of the citizens under the forfeiture of their arms, and confiscation of their property. Such of the citizens as had subscribed the king's covenant hesitated to comply with this requisition; upon which, the Earl of Montrose, broke up his camp at Inverury, and marched directly to the town in order to enforce compliance. By means of an overawing army, and a sermon which was preached by Mr. John Row of Perth, the greater part of the inhabitants were induced to subscribe the covenant. This business having been accomplished, Montrose appointed four of the citizens to act as the town's commissioners with the *tables* at Edinburgh, and 'to concur with them in such matters as might tend to the glory of God, the king's honour, and the maintenance of the true religion, laws, and liberties of the kingdom.' The Aberdeen commissioners, however, were not so graciously received by the *tables* as Montrose had expected, for the nobility required of them that they should pay 40,000 merks, as a fine inflicted on the city for its obstinacy; and threatened them with imprisonment, if they did not either pay the fine, or obtain from the town a bond of security for its payment. The commissioners, not being

able to fulfil their part of the condition, and not obtaining security from the town, were thrown into prison, and allowed to remain there for five weeks.

The Covenanters having appointed their committee to assemble at Turriff, on the 20th May, Lord Frazer and other leaders of the party, collected a body of 1200 men, on the 18th, in order to enforce obedience ; but being surprised by the Laird of Banff, Haddo, and other barons, they were obliged to disperse. Elated with success, the victors proceeded to Aberdeen and took it without opposition ; and after plundering the Covenanters who lived in the town and neighbourhood for the space of five days, took their final departure. Scarcely had the plunderers left the town, when the Earl Marischal appeared at the head of 2000 horse and foot, who, in his turn, harassed such of the inhabitants as were known to be loyalists. Montrose soon followed, who, suspecting the fidelity of the citizens, disarmed them of all their weapons. In the meantime, the Viscount of Aboyne, and the Earl of Glencairn arrived in the bay with military stores from England. Upon which, Montrose evacuated the town, marched into Angus, and dispersed his army. Aboyne was soon put at the head of an army 4000 strong : and summoning the citizens to join it, he conceived himself able to oppose the aggregate force of the Covenanters. Hence he directed his course toward Stonehaven : but meeting Montrose and Marischal at Megrog-hill, he suffered a repulse, and retraced his steps to Aberdeen. Montrose, pursuing close at his heels, advanced as far as the bridge of Dee. Here his progress received a check ; for the bridge was strongly fortified with four

field-pieces, and defended by four companies of townsmen. Next day, Montrose made a feint of crossing the river a little above, which induced Aboyne to leave the bridge in a state of insufficient defence. The bridge was then assaulted and taken. Aboyne and his troops sought safety in flight; but being closely pursued, many of them were slain. The loyalists, dreading the enemy's severity, left the town precipitately. The magistrates, in order to prevent the pillage of the city, agreed to pay the sum of 7000 merks. Many acts of plunder, however, were committed before the treaty was concluded. Forty-eight of the principal citizens that had been engaged in the action, were bound with cords, and committed to prison.

For a few years after, the town was occupied by different bodies of the Covenanters, and obliged to supply its quota of men and money.

While Lord Burleigh, in the year 1644, lay in Aberdeen with a body of the Covenanters' army consisting of 3000 horse and foot, Montrose, who had by this time attached himself to the interests of the king, having forded the river Dee at the Mills of Drum, encamped his army at Crathes. On hearing of his approach, Burleigh marched his army to the two-mile-cross, on the west of the town, but returned in the evening of the following day. Scarcely had Burleigh returned, when Montrose took up his position. Next morning, Montrose sent a commissioner accompanied by a drummer, with a letter which summoned the provost to surrender the town to his arms. The drummer on his return, was by accident or design, unfortunately killed in the Green. Montrose, exasper-

ated at this event, put his troops in motion, and encountering Lord Burleigh's army near the Crabestone, obtained, by means of the manœuvring of his cavalry, and the advantages of the situation, a decisive victory. The unfortunate citizens, many of whom had formerly experienced Montrose's oppressive measures, on account of their loyalty to the king, now endured the most wanton barbarities, committed by the Irish soldiers who formed part of his army. On the subsequent day, the main body of the army marched to Kintore, and the Irish auxiliaries followed two days after. The Marquis of Argyle, who had been in pursuit of Montrose, arrived on the evacuation of the town. Argyle's army being reinforced by the remains of Burleigh's, now amounted to 6000 horse and foot. After various movements, both armies met on the west coast near Inverlochy. A battle ensued, and Argyle suffered a defeat. Montrose's army, increased by deserters from Argyle's, soon returned to the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, about the beginning of March. The army encamped in the fields, and during their stay, pillaged the adjacent country; while Montrose harassed the citizens for supplies. After a short period, Montrose marched to Dundee, which he took and plundered. Having experienced a reverse of fortune, and endured many privations for the sake of his sovereign, the brave but barbarous Montrose was at last basely betrayed by his friend. One of his limbs was sent to Aberdeen; and being exposed on a pinnacle over the Justice Port, it hung as a spectacle of horror to all.

In the month of April 1646, Major General Middleton, who had taken the command of the Covenan-

ters' army which then lay in Aberdeen, marched northward, leaving Lieut. Col. H. Montgomery in defence of the town with a body of about 1000 horse and foot. In Middleton's absence, the Marquis of Huntly and his son James, Earl of Aboyne, attacked the town with an army of 2000 horse and foot. Montgomery's army was completely routed. Soon after, Huntly fell into the hands of the Covenanters, and was carried to Edinburgh, where he suffered for his steady adherence to his sovereign.

About the middle of the year 1647, the plague, which had raged in the southern parts of Scotland during the two preceding years, now commenced its ravages in Aberdeen, and carried off nearly 2000 of the inhabitants. In consequence of this visitation, the election of magistrates for that year was held in Gilcomston, and the Universities held the session of the following winter in Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

During the reign of James, the despotism of his government extended to the most minute objects; and the elections of the magistrates of the boroughs of Scotland did not escape his control; at least, the elections for Aberdeen were repeatedly interfered with, in direct violation of the statutes of past ages. This was the case with the election of 1685; and that of 1686 was expressly prohibited, the provost producing a letter from the king, authorising the continuance in office of the magistrates of the preceding year, until his majesty's pleasure should be known. In October following, the privy-council nominated the magistrates for that year. At the election of 1687, the same arbitrary conduct, as was displayed at the preceding elec-

tion, occurred again; and on the 10th November, the privy-council, assembled at Whitehall, appointed the office-bearers, for the borough as before. The election of 1688 was controlled in the same manner; but the abdication by James, of that throne which he had too long disgraced, put a stop to those shameful violations of the statutes of his ancestors.

At Michaelmas 1715, the rebels were in possession of Aberdeen, and the magistrates and council having absented themselves, no election took place. When the rebellion was suppressed, the king in council ordered the nomination of the magistrates to be made by those formerly in office, without the concurrence of the other counsellors, and the election was conducted accordingly.

In the year 1745, the election of the magistracy was again disturbed by the presence of the rebels, and when his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland arrived, he committed the civil administration of the town to twelve citizens, with the title of Governors, till peace and tranquillity should be restored to the kingdom. After the suppression of the Rebellion, these Governors, without the concurrence of the citizens, petitioned his majesty to order that the last provost and four bailies should proceed to the election of a new magistracy. His majesty was graciously pleased to ordain, that those persons who might have elected the office-bearers of the borough on the preceding Michaelmas, should, on the 9th July, proceed to the election of the magistrates, counsellors, and other office-bearers, to serve until the ordinary day of election should arrive on that year; and that from thence

forward the election of office-bearers should be continued according to the constitution, set, and custom of the borough. Nothing occurred contrary to this ordinance until the election of 1817, when certain deviations were made, both from the rule and usage of the borough. A person was chosen to be an assistant, who was not a burgess of guild; and Charles Forbes, Esq. a member of parliament, and a gentleman of great wealth and respectability of character, being an honorary burgess of the city, was elected provost; and also before it was known whether or not the new chosen counsellors had acquiesced in their nominations, according to the ancient usage on such occasions. The illegality of this election was urged by the burgesses, and brought before the Court of Session. On the 10th March, 1818, their lordships determined this important case, being unanimously of opinion, that William Rae, the person chosen as an assistant, was disqualified from voting, he not being a burgess of guild; and in consequence of the requisite number of voters required by law not being present, their lordships annulled the election as illegal. The court, upon the petition of the burgesses, appointed the three baillies who had been elected, and had accepted, to officiate in that character *ad interim*; and six other burgesses, to take the charge of the funds, or patrimonial interest of the city.

On the 20th April, a numerous meeting of the burgesses, heritors, and householders of the city assembled in the West Church, for the purpose of drawing up and subscribing a petition to his Majesty for the restoration of a regular government to the borough, which, having been prepared, was subscribed by nearly

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2000 citizens. In the mean while, the corporations, not agreeing with the views of the petition subscribed by the burgesses, heritors, and householders, transmitted a petition also, praying, among other things, that the political line of distinction between them and the guildry, should be set aside ; that they should have six representatives in the council ; and that all the counsellors, whether members of the guildry or of the incorporations, should be eligible to hold any situation in the council, except that of dean of guild. A petition was also presented from the members of the town-council, who had been duly elected in 1816, and had served for the subsequent year, stating the error which they had committed in the election of their successors ; and praying His Royal Highness to interpose such remedy as, in his wisdom, he might see fit.

After counsel had been fully heard in support of these several petitions, they were, along with other documents, committed to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and to the Attorney and Solicitor-General of England, with orders to prepare a report and opinion thereon. This being done, His Royal Highness, acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, and by and with the advice of his privy-council upon the 3d day of August, was pleased to order that the same persons who might have elected the magistrates, counsellors, and other office-bearers, on the 24th September preceding, or such as could be present, should on Wednesday the 23d September following, proceed to the election of the magistrates, counsellors, and other office-bearers, and that from thenceforth, the procedure of the election of

the magistrates should be in all time coming according to the constitution, set, and custom of the borough.

In the year 1794, a bill was brought into parliament for the better paving, lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving the streets, lanes, and other public passages of the city of Aberdeen, and the roads and avenues within the royalty thereof: for the better supplying the inhabitants with fresh water, and for removing and preventing all obstructions and annoyances within the said city and royalty. There were, however, in this bill, two clauses which appeared to many of the inhabitants very obnoxious. One of these excluded the inhabitants from the election of the commissioners, and the other clause provided for the extinction of a debt amounting to £3000 to be paid out of the new assessment. This debt was alleged to have been incurred, by the magistrates advancing funds, to meet the expense of bringing water into the city, when a plan was adopted for that purpose in the year 1706. It appeared, however, from a statement published in 1794, and drawn up by several gentlemen who were delegated by the citizens, to examine the well debt account, that in the year 1759, the debt was fully paid, and a balance remaining in favour of the community of £51 : 4s : 8½d., that in the year 1785, the debt was overpaid by a sum, including interest of £4849 : 16s : 1½d. sterling. It appears that the general balance arising from the annual assessment, had not been carried to account for the purpose of extinguishing the debt, and hence arose the miscalculation on the part of the magistrates and council, which led to the institution of the claim.

The bill containing these obnoxious clauses, was

successfully opposed. A petition, indeed, was presented in its favour, signed by 100 persons, but the petition against it was signed by upward of 3000 of the inhabitants. The citizens, however, carried their point at an expense of £1000.

In February 1817, the administrators of the town were obliged to declare the treasury insolvent. The whole debt amounted to £225,710 : 14s : 4d. and the estimated value of the whole property of every description amounted to £241,663 : 6s : 4d. while the revenue from every source was only £10,042 : 10s. yearly, from which, after deducting the annual charges of the borough, there was a deficiency of nearly £4000 per annum. To meet the annual deficiency, the persons in the management had for some time been obliged to borrow money, until the sums thus borrowed amounted to no less than £57,000.

This alarming state of public affairs, created a very strong sensation, not only in the minds of those more deeply interested, but in the community at large, and indeed throughout all parts of Scotland. The advocates for borough-reform, had, in the case of Aberdeen, received what was deemed an ample exemplification of the evils resulting from the mode of self-election, and were supported in their conclusion by the sentiments expressed by the magistrates and council who went out of office in 1817. Speaking of themselves, they say, " They here reiterate their decided opinion, that the present mode of election of the town-council, and management of the town's affairs, are radically defective and improvident, tending to give to any individual or party who may be so inclined an excessive and un-

natural preponderance, and to foster and encourage a concealment, under which the most upright magistrate, with the best intentions, may not be able to acquire that thorough knowledge of the situation of the borough, which is requisite for the due administration of its affairs."

In order to allay the discontents and apprehensions excited by the bankruptcy of the borough, a meeting of the creditors was convened in the Town-Hall. At this meeting, it was resolved, that the treasurer, magistrates, counsellors, and other trustees, under the Act of Parliament for the new streets, should grant a disposition and conveyance of the whole heritable and movable property vested in them, to twenty-one citizens, named in trust for the behoof of the creditors, which was accordingly done.

Since the above-mentioned period, the trustees have regularly paid 4 per cent interest to the creditors; and, upon the whole, the affairs of the borough seem to have put on a more thriving appearance.

With regard to the merits of the controversy arising from the disastrous circumstance we have just recorded, we do not pretend to pass an opinion. The burgesses of guild, assembled on the 15th February to take into consideration the state of public affairs, "attributed the present disaster of the treasury to the bad system under which the borough had been governed, by the town-council's being self-elected, and to its administration having become the inheritance of a few individuals, who, forming a secret junto, considered themselves irresponsible for their management to their fellow-citizens. They asserted that the ample endowments in fishings,

lands, and other heritages, granted by our sovereigns for the common good, to the provost, baillies, counsellors, burgesses, and their successors, have, during a course of years, been either delapidated, or squandered upon improvident and ill managed speculations." The friends of the magistracy stated, on the other hand, that the vast expenses attending the new street and harbour-improvements, the turnpike-road from Stonehaven to Aberdeen, and other public concerns, together with the accumulation of interest, had involved the treasury in an immense load of debt, before the successive councils were aware of its alarming amount.

Having given the statements of all parties faithfully and impartially in this sketch of the history of our city, we observe in conclusion, how much it is to be regretted that the great and substantial improvements made on the town, should have been followed by such disastrous consequences to its treasury. While *this* has suffered, private individuals have been enriched by the improvements ; adjoining lands have been greatly augmented in value ; the health, the comfort, and the convenience of the inhabitants, have all been encreased ; and the approaches to the city, from being formerly circuitous, narrow, and dangerous, are now spacious, easy, and magnificent.

## II.

SKETCH OF THE ANCIENT CUSTOMS AND MANNERS  
OF THE INHABITANTS.

**CURFEW-BELL.** The custom of covering household-fires at sunset in summer, and at eight or nine o'clock in winter, was practised at an early period in Aberdeen. The time of the evening was announced by the ringing of the public bell, which was called the *couvre-feu* or curfew. The curfew-bell still continues to toll at eight o'clock in summer and winter. The custom is said to have been introduced into England by William the Conqueror.

**SABBATH.** The holiday of Sabbath was ordained to commence at noon on Saturday, by a convocation of the clergy assembled at Perth, in the reign of King William the Lyon; all profane work being prohibited till Monday. Fairs and markets, however, were held on this day by authority of royal charters. The citizens practised archery, and attended to various games and amusements on this, and on other holidays. These violations of the Lord's day, were, by municipal laws, repressed in the 15th century.

**PLAYS.** Miracle-plays or mysteries, were, in the reign of popery, very common in many places of Scotland. The clergy, in order to prevent the irreligious tendency of the tricks and sports of jugglers, minstrels, and buffoons, who were employed by merchants when attending fairs, turned actors themselves, and presented, in the place of profane mummeries, stories taken from

legends and the Bible. In process of time, the clergy were prohibited from performing in these dramas. The plays were, at an early period, conducted under the auspices of two personages who were styled *the Abbot and Prior of Bon-accord*, and represented by two young citizens, who were nominated to their office by the magistrates. These personages and their train of attendants, being mounted on steeds, made a procession through the streets. The remainder of the day was devoted to dancing, games, farces, &c. The whole was concluded with a banquet, which appears to have been frequently productive of tumultuous disorder.

In the beginning of the 16th century, various plays and pageants were exhibited by the artificers, who walked in procession through the town on Candlemas-day, and days on which the feast of *Corpus Christi* and other festivals were held. But after the period of the Reformation, these ancient pastimes were repressed by acts of the legislature; although '*plays, fasts, histories, and antiques*,' composed of profane subjects, and performed by several of the young citizens, were substituted in their place. These, however, were condemned by the clergy, but supported, on the other hand, by the king, who, by his mandate, compelled the clergy to discontinue their censures against theatrical representations.

**MINSTRELSY.** Aberdeen, like other towns of importance, had its proportion of minstrels or secular musicians. Their business was, to go throughout the city every morning, at an early hour, and every evening, after the ringing of the curfew-bell, playing favourite pieces of music on instruments. They were supported by the inhabitants, who gave them their food in succes-

sion, or paid them, in lieu of it, a small sum of money yearly.

**GAMES OF CHANCE.** Games of chance were practised at an early period; but having been considered as pernicious to the morals of the people, were afterward condemned by the magistrates. In the year 1444, a citizen was tried and convicted for permitting cards and dice to be played in his house, and was threatened with banishment from the city for a repetition of the offence. Subsequently to the Reformation, two men were banished for a similar offence.

**DRESS.** In the 15th and 16th centuries, the ladies were not permitted, in the article of dress, to consult their fancy or their purse, but the law of the land. Many of them, however, testified by their conduct, that they were of Dr. Franklin's opinion concerning the propriety of such a law.

**ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.** In the year 1572, there were 35 illegitimate births, being nearly *one-third* of the whole number of births which took place in the city.

**PUBLIC REJOICINGS.** In the year 1590, the birth of the prince was hailed with ecstatic joy, and the event celebrated on a Sunday, with the ringing of bells, and the lighting of bonfires in the streets. The magistrates and principal inhabitants walked in procession through the town, expressing their joy in the singing of psalms. The evening was devoted to festivity and drinking wine at the cross; the common people assembled on the occasion having abundance of English beer distributed among them.

**WITCHCRAFT.** In 1594, a few decrepit old women



were convicted of the crime of witchcraft, and burned. In the course of the two following years, twenty-four women and two men, after suffering inhuman tortures, either died of their pains, or perished in the flames. The expense of sending these wretches out of the world, exclusive of the fees due to the dean of guild and the officer, amounted to the sum of £178 : 17s : 4d.

**FEASTING.** In the early part of the 16th century, extravagant feasting prevailed. In 1623, an act of the town-council was passed, by which it was ordained, "That the citizens should invite no more than four *goßsops* and four *cummers* to any baptism, &c. and no more than six men and six women to any dinner or supper, or *afternoon's* drink at baptisms." A few years after, another act was made, by which no person was to *presume* to compel his neighbour at table with him to drink more wine or beer, than what he pleased under the penalty of £40.

**ECCLESIASTICAL TRIBUNAL.** By this tribunal statutes were enacted against popery, adultery, fornication, and blasphemy. The punishments inflicted were exposure in sackcloth on the high and low stools of repentance in the church; imprisonment in the steeple, and the noisome dungeon under the vestry; flogging at a stake after conviction and some times before it; ducking in the river; pillorying in the public streets; carting through the town, with a crown of paper, having the nature of the offence circumscribed; and banishment from the city.

**MASKING.** Young persons of both sexes were in the custom of clothing themselves in the dress of the other sex, and disguising themselves with masks, and in this

manner, they attended marriage-entertainments, at which they caroled and danced. They also waited on the inhabitants at Christmas and New-year's day, in expectation of some small present, caroling and dancing, in the same ridiculous attire.

**FUNERALS.** The custom of wearing black clothes at funerals began to prevail toward the close of the sixteenth century. Permission for the attendants on the funeral of a constable to wear black clothes and arms, was granted by the magistrates and council for the sum of £10. to be paid to the master of kirk and bridge-works. Mortcloths were introduced about the beginning of the seventeenth century—one of velvet, and another of cloth. Fees were exacted for the use of the mortcloths, and were appropriated to the support of the church. The company attending funerals were generally invited by the common bell-man, who passed through the town reciting appropriate verses.

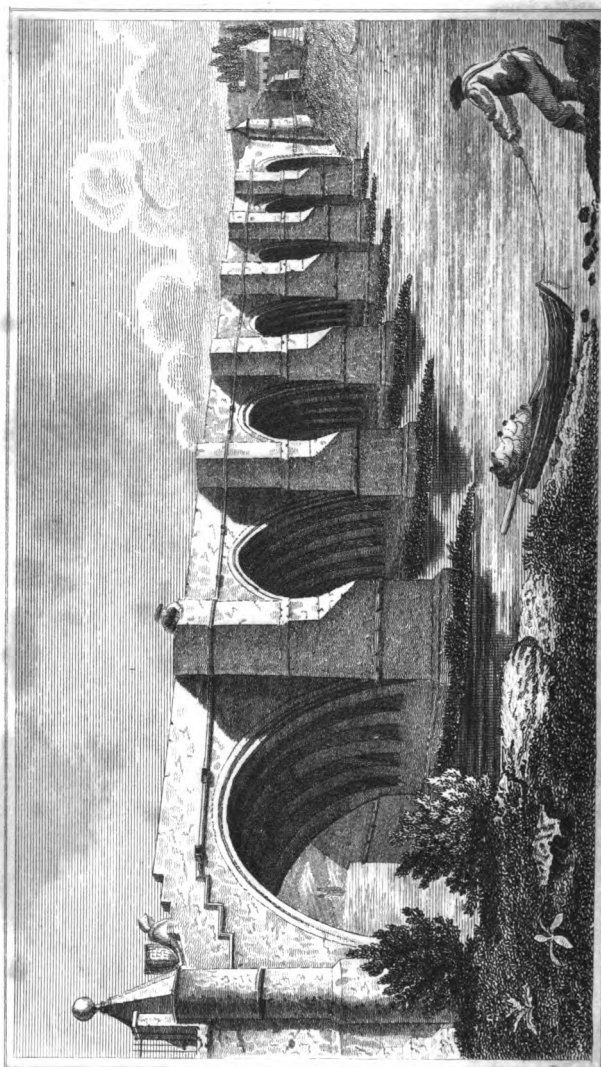
**RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE.** George Keith, William Nepper, and William Stuart, who had espoused the sentiments of the Quakers, and left the Established Church, were in the year 1663, summoned before the magistrates, by whom they were condemned for adopting religious innovations, and banished from the town. The inhabitants were prohibited, under heavy penalties, from harbouring them in their houses. Not being able to prevent them from assembling together, the magistrates ordered all the male Quakers to be apprehended, and imprisoned them in the jail, at the same time closing their meeting-house. Some of the Quakers having been buried in a spot of ground lying east of the Gallowgate, the magistrates commanded

them to be raised, and buried in the church-yard. In 1674, two of those inoffensive people were imprisoned principally for calling the kirk a *steeple-house*; which was the usual term that the Quakers were accustomed to give to places of worship in those days. In the same age, the citizens were, by the laws of the borough, obliged to attend the kirk every Sunday, under the penalty of £10.

**KIDNAPPING.** In the years 1742, and 1743, the nefarious traffic of kidnapping was carried on by several persons in Aberdeen. Peter Williamson, a well known character, was one of the number of boys who had been kidnapped, and afterward carried to Virginia. He published, on his return to Aberdeen, a full account of the methods which had been practised by the Aberdeen slave-dealers, along with a statement of his privations and sufferings. Poor Williamson was, in consequence of his publication, imprisoned, disgraced, and banished from the town. His case, however, was taken up by some friends of humanity in Edinburgh, and, at last, became the subject of cognizance by the judges of the supreme court. The judges unanimously condemned the provost, the four baillies, and the dean of guild, conjointly in a fine of £100 sterling, to be paid to Williamson, with the whole expense of the law-suit; and directed that they should be personally liable for the expense, as well as for the fine.



*Published by James Johnston, Aberdeen.*



G. Smith Del.

Eng'd by J. Sloan Glasgow

## BRIDGE OF DEE.

ANNA ABERDEEN

## III.

## BRIDGES.

**BRIDGE OF DEE.** This bridge affords the only access to the city from the south turnpike, and is distant about two miles. It is a light building consisting of seven semicircular arches, built of stones which were brought from Moray and the Frith of Forth. In ancient times, there was on the south end of the bridge a porch with a watch tower over it; and also, according to the custom of the age, a chapel, on the north end, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Before the bridge was built, the passage over the river was effected by the common ferry at the Craglug. About the year 1448, the aldermen and baillies designed that a bridge should be thrown across the river, at a small distance above the ferry, for which purpose, they entered into contract with John Livingstone, vicar of Inverugie, for the superintending of the work. The undertaking, however, was soon after relinquished. About the beginning of the 16th century, the present bridge was projected by William Elphinston, Bishop of Aberdeen, who did not live to see it finished. His successor, Bishop Gavin Dunbar, recommenced the work, and completed the structure, at his own expense, in the course of a few years. He also bequeathed to the magistrates, town-council, and community, the lands of Ardlair, in the parish of Clat, to be a source of funds for supporting and re-building the fabric. The lands were sold in 1592, and the money was laid

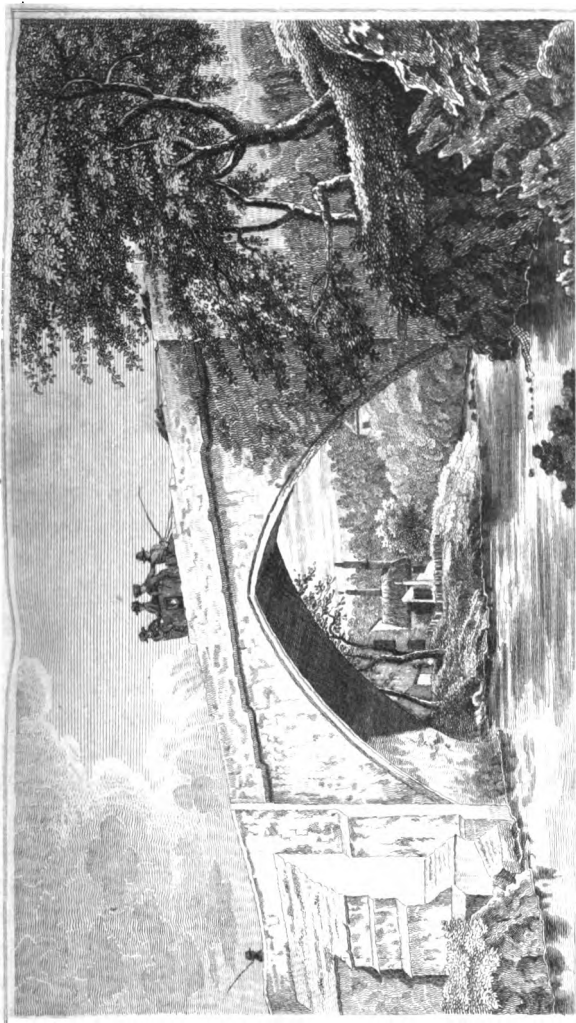
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out at interest. The amount at present is between £4000 and £5000 sterling. An extensive course of repairs took place in 1718. Certain improvements have lately been effected on the carriage-way.

**BRIDGE OF DON.** This romantic structure connects the Peterhead and Ellon turnpike roads with Aberdeen, and is distant from the city about two miles.—It consists of a Gothic arch built over the narrowest part of the river, and resting on a rock at each end. It is 66 feet 10 inches wide at the bottom, and  $34\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, above the surface of the river. The water underneath is  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep at low tide. The bridge is so narrow that two carriages cannot pass each other. Like the bridge of Dee, it was provided with a chapel, which was under the patronage of the magistrates.

Historians are divided in their opinions concerning the founder of this ancient building; some ascribing the honour of its erection to King Robert Bruce, and others to Henry de Cheyne, who filled the bishop's see in the year 1281. Bishop Cheyne, by swearing fealty to Edward I. forfeited the rents of his see; but Bruce, on his establishment, restored the worthy bishop to his office, and secured to him all his emoluments and arrears. It is supposed by some, that the king had recommended to Cheyne the erection of the bridge with part of the money which had accumulated in his absence. This conjecture is rendered probable from the circumstance that Robert ordered the church to be rebuilt, and the expense to be defrayed from the revenues of the see. Hence the honour of building the bridge may justly be attributed to the king and the bishop conjointly. Sir Alexander Hay, one of the

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W. Woodcut

Printed by James Richardson

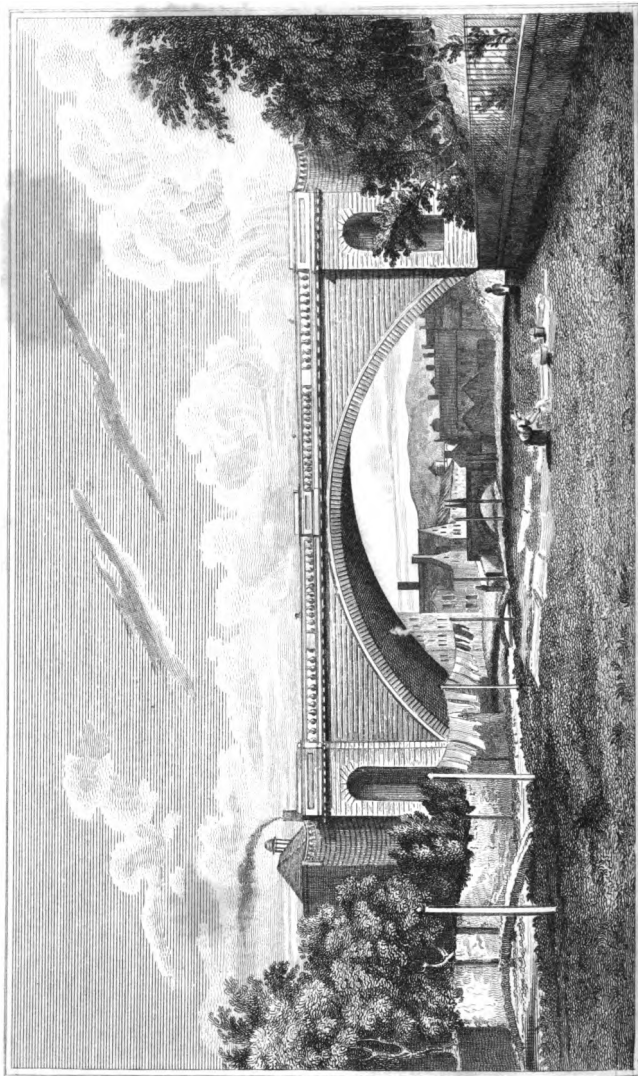
# THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE







*Published by, James Johnston Aberdeen*



G. Smith Del.

Engr'd by J. Smith Glasgow

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

clerks of session, and afterward lord clerk register, granted to the council and community, by a charter dated in February, 1605, certain annuities amounting to £27:8:6 Scots, arising from various crofts of land in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, for defraying the expense of repairing and supporting the bridge. The property belonging to the bridge is upward of £12,000 Sterling. A bridge of five arches is about to be constructed in a line with King-Street and the Ellon turnpike-road. Nothing is more wanted in the city or neighbourhood than a bridge placed in such a situation.

**UNION BRIDGE.** This bridge is in the line of the present spacious entry into our city from the south, and consists of a large arch built over a dingle, through which runs a small rill called the Denburn. The span of the arch is 130 feet, and the height of the balustrade, measuring from the ground underneath, is 50 feet, the rise above the spring 29 feet, and the breadth across the soffit 43 feet. The bridge consists wholly of Aberdeen granite, and the materials are supposed to weigh 2000 tons. The expense amounted to £13,000, and the building was contracted for by the late Mr. William Ross.

In the year 1801, the magistrates opened a new street from the south, communicating with Castle-Street, in order to remedy the inconveniences which arose from the former narrow and indirect entrance into the town. It was necessary to carry the street over the Denburn at a very great elevation. In prosecution of this measure, the foundations of abutments and piers for supporting a bridge of three small arches,

were laid under the direction of Mr. Fletcher, the superintendent of the city-works. Mr. Telford the engineer, having occasion to pass through the town at the time, was requested by the magistrates to examine the intended bridge. On considering the superior excellence of the granite-stone employed, Mr. Telford thought it proper to advise them to abandon the scheme of having three arches, and build a bridge of one arch. At their desire, he gave them a plan of one arch, measuring 150 feet in span, which would have been the largest stone-arch in Britain, and also containing many singular features, that would have been calculated to prove what could be performed with Aberdeen granite. The expense attending this plan, however, far exceeded the funds which could be allotted. Mr. Telford produced a simpler design ; but in order that the masonry of the abutments already laid might be saved, the span was reduced to its present dimensions by Mr. Fletcher, the superintendent of the city-works. It is, notwithstanding, a magnificent arch. That built by Mr. Edwards over the Taaf, in Glamorganshire is of a span 10 feet greater, but which, on account of its narrowness, and steepness of ascent, is remarkable more as an effort of art, than as a useful mode of passage.

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#### IV.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

THERE can be no doubt, that the buildings first erected by the earliest inhabitants of the earth, were

different from the various specimens of architecture which are now displayed to our view, in almost every civilized country. A small addition to the shade of the woods, would have served for all the purposes of habitation. But, as the progress and advantages of agriculture would have led the inhabitants to abandon their woody solitudes, and establish themselves in the open plain, buildings constructed of more durable materials would have been found more convenient and necessary. Traces, however, of the primitive hut found their way to habitations more lasting and ornamental: hence the upright trunks of trees represent columns; the girts, or bands, which served to keep the trunks from bursting, expressed bases and capitals; the summers, laid across, gave a hint of entablatures; and the coverings, ending in points, exhibited a model for pediments.

That the Greeks benefited by the architecture of Egypt and Persia, is rendered highly probable, when we consider, that their early sages acquired their information principally from these countries; that the commencement of the most rapid progress of the science of architecture in Greece, corresponds with the period of their connection with Egypt, during the reign of Psammeticus; and that the pillars of the finest edifices in those countries afforded, in their shafts, capitals, and other ornaments, hints sufficient for a people less ingenious than was that of Greece.

The *Doric* order of architecture owes its name to the *Dorians*, a people who inhabited one of the Grecian districts. The *Doric*, as to its character, is considered by architects as grave, robust, and of masculine aspect; hence it is figuratively termed the *Herculean* order.

The *Ionic* order owes its invention to the people of *Ionia*, who inhabited a Grecian district, and is said to have been first employed in the decorations of the temple of *Diana*, at *Ephesus*. The *Ionic* column is more slender and graceful than the *Doric*. Its general appearance being simple, yet graceful and majestic, it has, in figurative language, been compared to a sedate matron, arrayed in decent, rather than in rich attire.

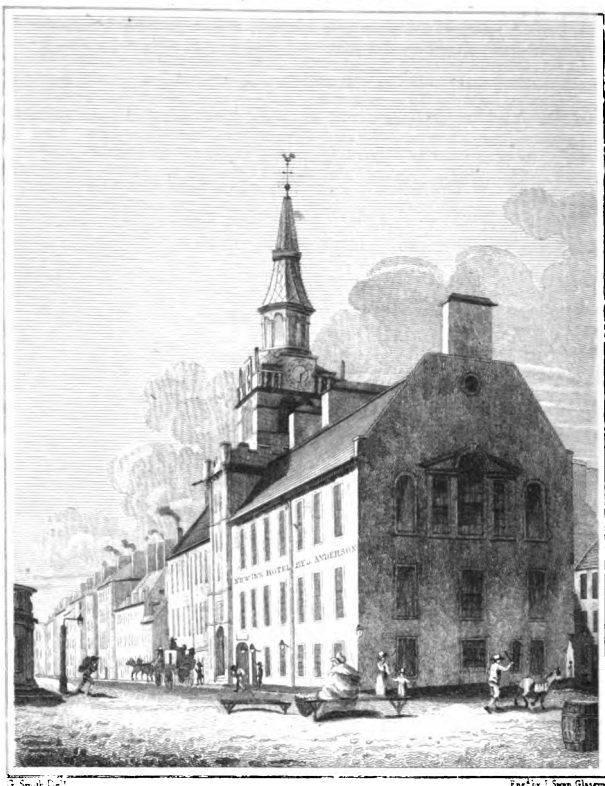
The artists of *Grecia Proper*, perceiving, that the severity of the *Doric* had been excluded in the *Ionic* order, invented, by one happy effort, a third, which much surpassed the *Ionic* in delicacy of proportion, and richness of decoration. This order was named the *Corinthian*. The merit of this invention is ascribed to *Callimachus*, an *Athenian* sculptor, who, it is said, had the idea suggested to him by observing *acanthus-leaves* growing round a basket, which had been placed with some favourite trinkets, upon the grave of a *Corinthian* lady; the stalks which rose among the leaves having been formed into slender volutes by a square tile, with which the basket was covered. *Scamozzi* calls it the *virginal* order, an epithet truly characteristic of the delicacy and tenderness of composition throughout the whole. It obtained a place in palaces, public squares, banqueting rooms, theatres, and the apartments of young ladies.

The *Romans*, being much indebted to the *Greeks* for all that relates to architecture and sculpture, have little claim to original ideas on these subjects. Renouncing all thoughts of rivalry, they were contented to imitate and plunder. As if the *Corinthian* order had not been left by the *Greeks* sufficiently expressive of riches and





*Published by James Johnston, Aberdeen.*



TOWN HOUSE, OLD PRISON, & NEW INN &c.  
Castle Street.

magnificence, they loaded every member with ornaments wholly unknown to the inventors, and at last united the Ionian and Corinthian orders in one, which they styled the *Composite*.

The inhabitants of *Tuscany*, one of the most considerable of the Italian states, stripped the Doric of its finest features, and gave rise to an order which has since been known by the name of *Tuscan*.

*Gothic* is an epithet which has been affixed to a school of architecture, very different from that either of Greece or of Rome. It was only at the time of its extirpation, that the term was applied, in token of the contempt in which it was held by the school of Palladio, in Italy, and Jones, in England. Gibbon says, that the palace of Theodosius affords the oldest specimen of the Gothic style of building; so that the Roman architecture had been almost completely changed, at the period of the incursions made by the Goths. The Gothic style was reduced, by a very rapid transition, from the zenith of its glory, to the state of degradation to which we have just alluded. After the expiration of about two centuries, men of science again began to consider the excellence of its principles, and men of taste, to perceive the beauty of its forms. Gothic architecture has been employed almost exclusively in the erection of ecclesiastical edifices.

We offer no apology for introducing these observations on architecture, as their utility must be obvious to many of our readers who may be unacquainted with the architectural terms which frequently occur in the following description of public buildings.

TOWN-HOUSE, JAIL, AND NEW COURT-HOUSE. The

old COURT-ROOM was fitted up, and a part of the front wall renewed, in the year 1670. An addition also was made to the west end of the building, for the purpose of a staircase. "About the year 1750, the town-hall was projected over the court-room and clerk's chamber, and the whole front wall of the edifice made uniform." This room is 46 feet 8 inches long, 29 feet broad, and 18 feet high. The hall is appropriated solely to the occasional meetings of the magistrates and town-council. "In the uppermost part of this building, on the west end, is the town's armoury, in which are deposited about 300 stands of muskets, a very ancient coat of mail, the standard carried by the citizens at the battle of Harlaw, and some other warlike instruments; with the axe of the machine, known by the name of the *maiden*, which in times of old was used for decapitating criminals; also the furniture of the provost's charger, when he attended, as commissioner for the town, the coronation of king Charles I. at Edinburgh."

The PRISON consists of the following apartments, *viz.* "One room, fronting the street, appropriated to burghesses of guild under confinement for debt, being  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 11 feet, and in height, to the top of the arch, 11 feet. The room backward, is  $11\frac{1}{4}$  feet by  $11\frac{2}{3}$  feet, and of the same height with the former. In the old work, there is a low room 15 feet by 8 feet, and 11 feet high, and over it another room 15 feet by  $14\frac{2}{3}$  feet. The stock room above is 15 feet square, and the low room  $23\frac{2}{3}$  feet by 11 feet, having no fire-place." "There are also two other rooms, but one of them is a dungeon, having no fire-place in it, nor any light. In these wretched apartments there" were "generally from

40 to 50 persons lodged, on an average, during the whole year." Prisoners are, in the mean time, accommodated in Bridewell.

" In the year 1394, King Robert III. granted to the burgesses and community a charter, dated 20th of October, by which he permitted them to build a tol-booth and court-house, 80 feet in length, and 30 feet in breadth, in any part of the town, except in the middle of the market-place. This edifice was accordingly soon afterward erected, on the north side of the Castle-gate, (Castle-street,) on the site of the present town-house. On the east end of it stood the old prison, on the top of which was a small spire. In the year 1615, this part of the fabric was demolished, and a new jail erected in its place, consisting of that part of the present old work, which fronts the street. It consisted of four vaults over each other, with a platform roof, and battlement; and the expense being 5000 merks, was defrayed from the public funds of the town. In the year 1627, a square tower was erected over this building, for the basement of the present steeple," the top of which is nearly 120 feet from the level of the ground underneath. The place of the old clock was supplied with one made by Andrew Dunlop of London, in the year 1726. The clock cost £100. The sum was paid out of the guild-wine-fund. It remained in the steeple till the year 1817, when it gave place to a new one of superior workmanship, made by Mr. John Gartly, of Aberdeen.

" A new COURT-HOUSE and Jail were projected some years ago, to be built at the expense of the town and county, and an act of parliament obtained, author-

izing the execution of this undertaking, according to a plan," furnished by John Smith, Esq. city architect, and "which has been adopted." The erection of the court-house commenced in the year 1818, and the house opened in the year 1820. It is built directly behind the town-house, and connected with it. The principal entrance to the court-house, is from Castle-Street, by a new gothic door-way, and a lofty ground lobby, formed in the prison-tower. At the extremity of the lobby, is a handsome stone stair, which leads to the vestibule of the court, on the first floor. The vestibule is 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 20 feet high, finished with a screen of Grecian Doric columns next the staircase, and antæes on the side-walls, with corresponding soffets, and a segment-ceiling. The court-room is of a semicircular form fronting the bench, and is 45 feet in width, 42 feet in length, from the back of the bench to the front of the gallery, and 35 feet in height, to the centre of the ceiling. A gallery for the audience, extends round the semicircular end, 7 feet in width, having three separate staircases, and two different entrances from Lodge-walk. The court-room is lighted by a large fan, and three screen lights, thrown into panels in the ceiling, and a vertical window over the bench. The room is finished with well-proportioned Grecian Ionic columns, antæes, frieze and cornice, and a segment and semi-dome pannelled ceiling. In front of the bench, are the bar, pannel-seat, witness and crier's boxes; and behind the same is an enclosed staircase, by which the prisoners come into court, from the entrance below. On the right of the bench are seats for the magistrates, the jury-box, and seats for

the assize. On the left of the bench are seats for the sheriffs and justices of peace, &c. and directly in front are seats for the audience, all having separate entrances. The court-room is heated by a hot-air-furnace below, and brick flues underneath the floor. It has the means of good ventilation. On the right, or south side of the court-room are two handsome jury-rooms, communicating with the same by a spandril groined anti-passage. Under the gallery, is a passage extending round the court-room, communicating with the different staircases, and with the judges' room, counsels' room, and two witnesses' rooms, which are on the left, or north side of the court-room. At the back of the bench is also a passage communicating with the judges' room. Over the rooms on the north side of the building, is the advocates' library, and an additional witness-room. The court-room and apartments connected with it, are furnished in the most elegant manner. On the ground floor of the court-house are apartments for the housekeeper, an office for the dean of guild's officer, and an excellent watch-house and captain's room adjoining. There are also vaulted cellars, and a passage communicating with the old prison and the pannel-stair.

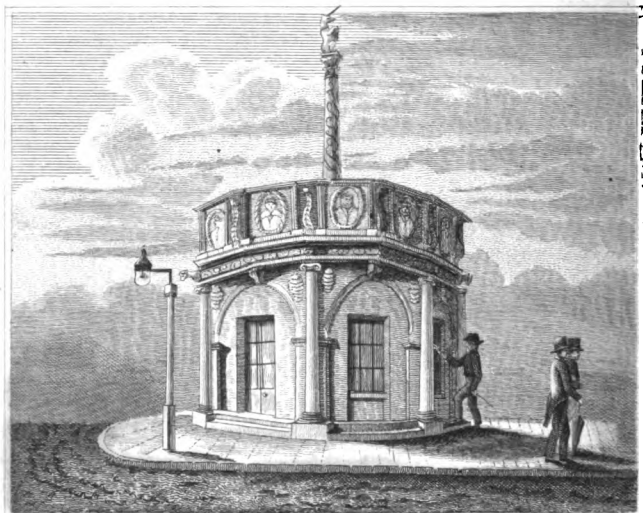
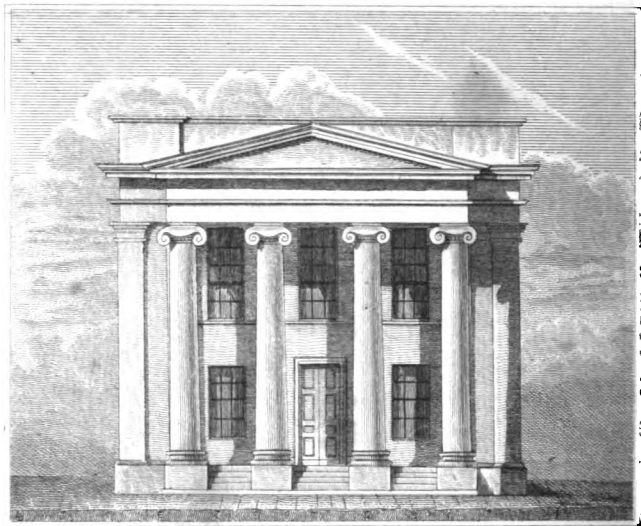
**THE CROSS.** The cross is an "hexagonal structure, of Grecian architecture, about 18 feet high to the top of the balustrade. In the centre of it there rises an elegant column, about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, ornamented with a wreath of thistles around it, having a Corinthian capital, surmounted by a unicorn, bearing on its breast a shield, with a lion rampant. The entry to the building" was "from the north, by a door which" gave

“ access to a stair in the inside, leading to the platform, where proclamations are commonly read. The extreme breadth of each side of the fabric, from angle to angle, is 10 feet ; and on each of the six angles is placed a column, the centre of which is on the extremity of the side. The diameter of the building, from the outside of one column to that of the other on the opposite side, is 20 feet. The columns are of the Ionic order, 9 feet high, and their capitals executed in the ancient style. On each side of these columns are pilasters, formed by a small recess in the wall,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, and 5 feet high, including their impost-mouldings. Over these arches, being segments of circles, with architrave mouldings. The entablature above is formed of 12 sides, one of the angles of which rests on the top of the column, the other on the middle of the side below, and their weighty projections are supported by trusses. The architrave, frieze, and cornice, being very neat, are 2 feet high, and the frieze is richly ornamented with foliage, but not swelled, as is common in the Ionic order. In the frieze over each of the columns is the head of a dog, or other animal, projecting for the purpose of carrying off the rain-water from the top of the building. Over the cornice is placed a balustrade, or close panelling, divided into 12 compartments, each having a handsome moulding. In the one fronting the west are placed the arms of the town of Aberdeen, finely cut in stone ; and in the five following, on the south, are disposed, in their order, quarter-length effigies of James I. II. III. IV. and V. kings of Scotland. In the compartments fronting the east, the royal arms of Scotland are placed ; and in the five remaining ones





MEDICAL HALL.



G. Smith Del.

Engd by J. Swan Glasgow

POST OFFICE.

are also disposed, in order, quarter-lengths of Queen Mary, James VI. Charles I. Charles II. and James VII.; the four last sovereigns being successively kings of Great Britain. All these effigies are cut in high relief, in stone, and each has an oval wreath as a frame. The countenances of the latter sovereigns are said to bear a strong resemblance of the best pictures of them which are still preserved, and a family likeness may be traced through the whole. At all times the cross has been regarded as a very elegant structure, and an ornament to the town. The body of the building is formed of groined arches, and under these are four small cells, used by huxters frequenting the market-place. It was erected by John Montgomery, mason, of Old Rain, in the year 1686, in place of the ancient cross, which was then demolished. For completing this piece of work, the architect received the sum of £100 Sterling, paid from the guild-wine funds."

"The pavement on the west side of the cross was laid down about the year 1752, and long used as an exchange and place of resort of the citizens, both for transacting business, and for recreation. It is formed of square dressed granite, raised two steps above the level of the street," and was "84 feet long and 57 feet broad."

**POST-OFFICE.** The Cross, which was opened on the 10th April, 1822, as the Aberdeen Post-Office, was begun to be repaired and cleaned by order of the magistrates in April, 1821, but, after the workmen had proceeded for a short time, the walls were found to be in so decayed a state that it was deemed necessary to take down the whole, and rebuild it in the best manner

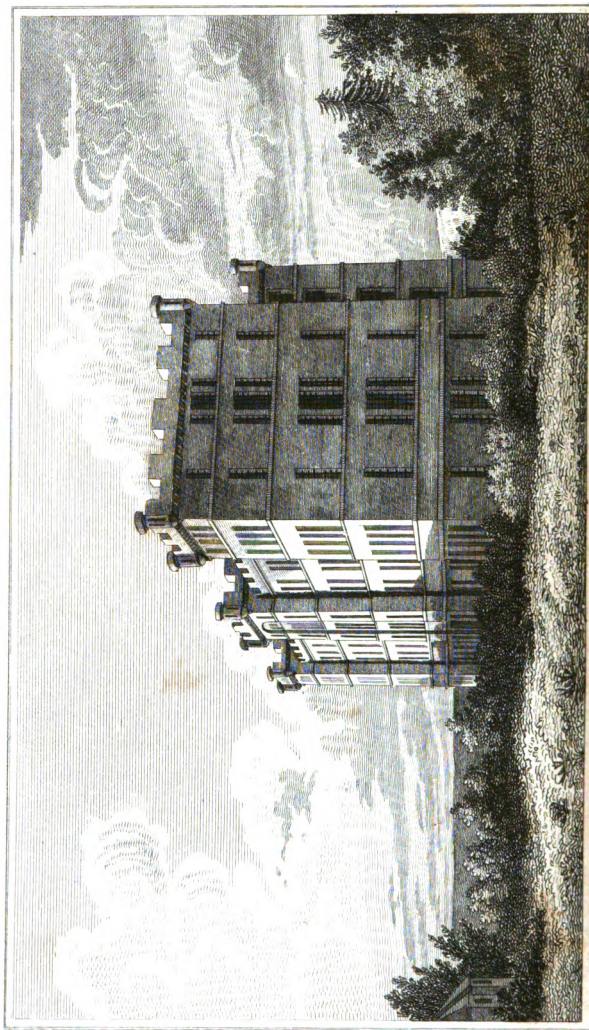
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that was possible. The building was taken down without any part suffering injury; except the large Corinthian column, which, while being removed to a place of safety, was, notwithstanding the greatest precaution, unfortunately broken. On taking off the coating of paint which had been very injudiciously put upon the Unicorn, it was discovered that this piece of most excellent sculpture had been cut out of a block of fine statuary marble. All the other materials are formed of Morayshire-freestone. On taking down the interior stone-pillar which supported the column, a circular reservoir was discovered of polished ashler work about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet diameter, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, with a feeding and discharging pipe of lead, supposed to have been connected with the Castle-Street well, which formerly stood not far distant from the Cross.

In cleaning and polishing the heads and carved work, the greatest possible care was taken to preserve the original features and figures. Stucco-casts were taken of the heads for that purpose. The base of the Cross is of new well dressed granite-stone, and all the other decayed parts are renewed with Morayshire-freestone. The roof is securely constructed of cast-iron in such a manner as supports the weight of the column and loaded platform without any interior support, or lateral pressure on the side walls, and consists of a strong hexagonal frame resting on the upper bed of the architrave course,—six rafters, and a circular cirb at top, all strongly bolted together. The column stands in a cast-iron socket on the circular cirb, and is secured to the roof, and also at the fracture, by means of a long malleable iron bolt, let up through the centre of the



*Published by James Robertson, Aberdeen*



G. Smith, Del.

THE UNIVERSITY

Engr'd by J. Swan Glasgow

**column.** The fracture is scarcely visible. The taking down of the cross, and rebuilding of the masonry, were undertaken by Mr. James Small, who has executed the work in a manner highly creditable to himself. The whole was under the superintendence of John Smith, Esq., the city-architect.

**RECORD-OFFICE.** This edifice is a plain building situated at the east end of Castle-Street. It was erected in the year 1779, the expense being defrayed by subscription and other means. It was designed as a general repository for the public records of the town and county of Aberdeen. The upper floor is used for meetings of the gentlemen of the county, and of the justices of the peace when assembled as judges in the small debt-court. Some alterations have lately taken place, which will tend to the better preservation of records, &c.

**BRIDEWELL.** This building is situated toward the west of the town. It is surrounded with a wall 14 feet high, which encloses a garden, and airing grounds for the use of the culprits. The entry to the house is from Union-Street, by a pleasant approach, through a handsome gateway, to which are attached a porter's lodge and a guardhouse. The house consists of five floors; the uppermost is set apart for an hospital and store-rooms. Each floor is divided by a gallery which runs the whole length of the house, having at each end a large Venetian window. On one side of this gallery there are eleven cells which are allotted for labour, and on the other, fourteen cells used as sleeping chambers: each cell for labour is lighted by two long but narrow windows; and each cell for sleep, by one

window of the same dimensions. The windows turn on an iron rod running perpendicular in the middle. From the back projects a building of the same height, in which are contained the governor's apartments, kitchen, committee-room, a chapel, and the surgeon's accommodations.

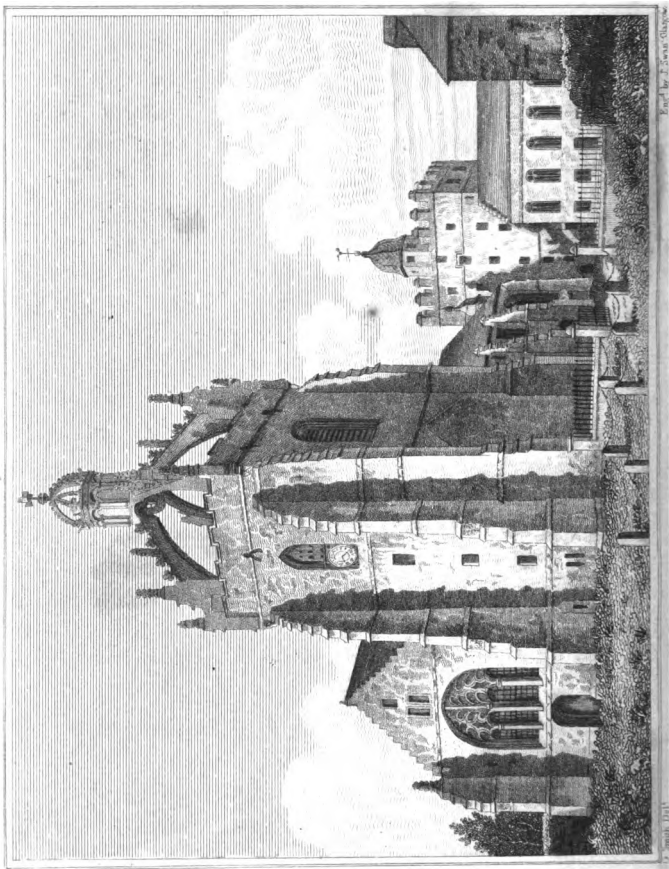
In the year 1636, the magistrates obtained a patent from King Charles I., for establishing a house of correction. All vagabonds and minor delinquents were, by a special act of the town-council, confined and employed at work in it. Ecclesiastical offenders also were not unfrequently confined. The culprits were employed in manufacturing broad-cloths, kerseys, seys, and other coarse cloths. The manufacture was carried on to a considerable extent by a joint stock-company. The trade languished very much toward the close of the 17th century; and the work was accordingly given up about the year 1711, at which time the property was sold, and converted to other purposes. From this establishment the Correction-wynd had its name.

In 1802, an act of parliament was obtained, authorizing the erection of a bridewell for the town and county, and also an assessment for erecting the building, and supporting the establishment; one half of which was to be contributed by the town, and the other, by the county. The commissioners were at the same time empowered to borrow the sum of £7000, and, by a subsequent act, an additional sum of £5000; and to assign the assessments in security for the money that was to be borrowed. The building was finished in the year 1809, and opened for the reception of culprits on the 2d October. It has accommodation for





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1841

WINDING STAIRS TO THE ABBEY CHURCH

60 prisoners. The whole expense of the buildings, steam-apparatus, bedding, clothing, and other furnishings, including plans and acts of parliament, amounted to £10,500. The yearly assessment is £1165 : 19s : 9d. The annual charge is about £420. The balance, after deducting the charge, is applied to the payment of the interest, and the liquidation of the principal.

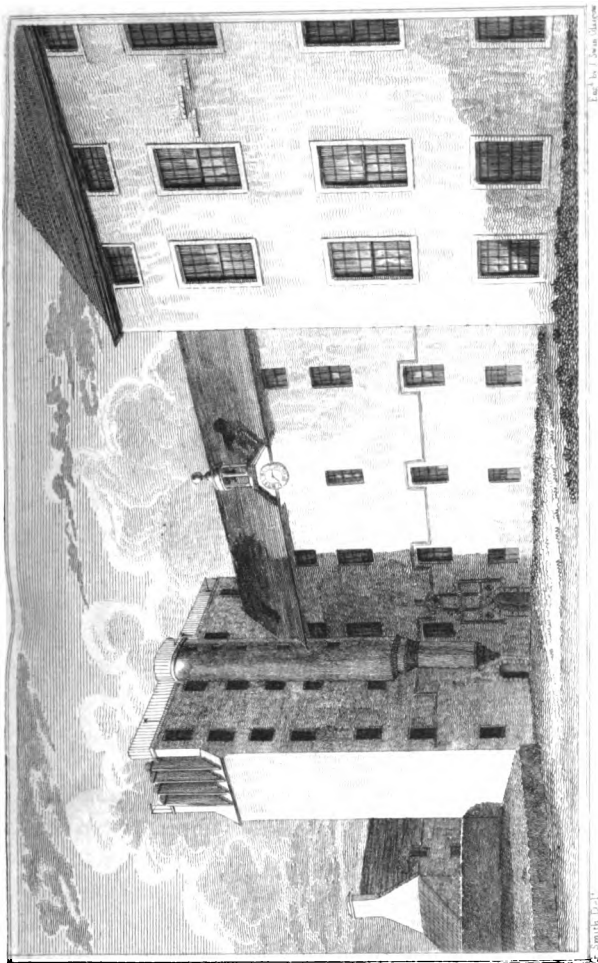
**KING'S COLLEGE.** This building is situated in Old Aberdeen, forming a quadrangular court. The east end is a plain structure, containing the public hall, and class-rooms underneath. The north-east corner is a lofty building of six stories. On the north side are the public school and library-hall. These apartments were erected since the Reformation by drawing a partition through the chapel which was previously devoted to religious worship. A small spire rises from the roof of the building. "On the south-west corner there is a lofty square tower, strengthened by buttresses, and covered with a flat roof, having on the top a parapet, over which there springs from each of its corners a slip of stone-work highly ornamented. These slips meet at the top, and form four open arches, in imitation of an imperial crown. On the top of this structure is a stone-lantern, surmounted by another imperial crown of stone-work, with a globe and cross." The tower contained, in ancient times, 13 bells, which were furnished at Bishop Elphinston's expense. The south side of the court consists of a plain building, 112 feet long, with a piazza underneath. Anciently there was a round tower on each end, but one only now remains.

The COMMON-HALL is 60 feet long and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad, and is ornamented with portraits of Bishops Elphinston, Dunbar, &c. &c. It has lately undergone a thorough repair. The room appropriated for the library is 58 feet long and  $29\frac{1}{3}$  feet broad, having galleries to which there is an ascent by neat double stairs, also a lofty Gothic window on the west end. The erection of the buildings commenced about the year 1500.

MARISCHAL-COLLEGE. This edifice consists of a plain building, 76 feet long, and 22 feet broad, having two wings attached. The public-school occupies the ground floor of the principal building; the public-hall is on the next floor, and the library on the third. The wings contain lodgings for three of the professors, the divinity-hall, class-rooms, &c. Upon the top of the west wing, there was erected, at the expense of government, in the year 1794, an observatory, in lieu of one which Dr. Copland had erected on the Castle-hill in 1781, and which was taken down, in order that the ground might be cleared for the erection of the military barrack. It commands, from its elevated situation, an extensive prospect, being about 60 feet above the level of the court. The principal room is 48 feet by 18 feet.

There are several apartments detached from the principal building, *viz.* a laboratory, a room appropriated to the professor of chemistry, and one to the professor of anatomy, in which they deliver lectures: also a dwelling-house occupied by the two college-servants.

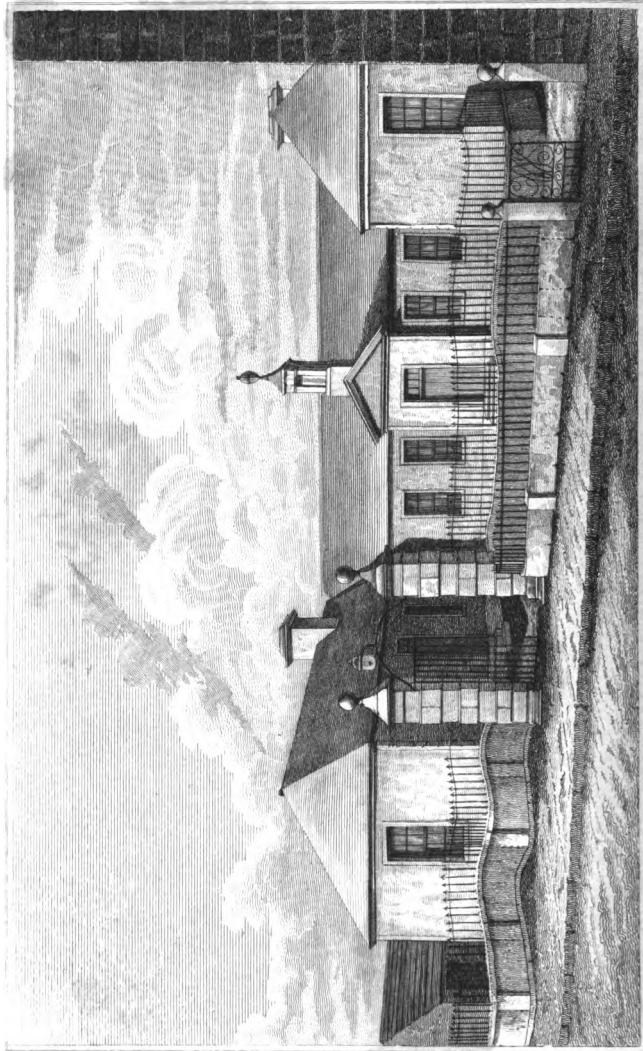
The greater part of the present structure was erected about the year 1676, and the east wing in 1747; the principal part of the original buildings having been destroyed by an accidental fire in the year 1639.







*Engraved by James J. Watson, Glasgow*



G. Smith Del.

Engd by J. Swan, Glasgow

# TERMINUS SCHOOL

The entrance to the court is from the east side of Broad-Street, near the Gallowgate.

**GRAMMAR-SCHOOL.** This is a neat modern building forming three sides of a square, and having a belfry in the centre of the main building. It contains a public hall, and four teaching rooms all on one floor. The teaching rooms have lately been enlarged by two additional wings at the back of the building. The area in front is enclosed by a low wall having an iron-rail on the top.

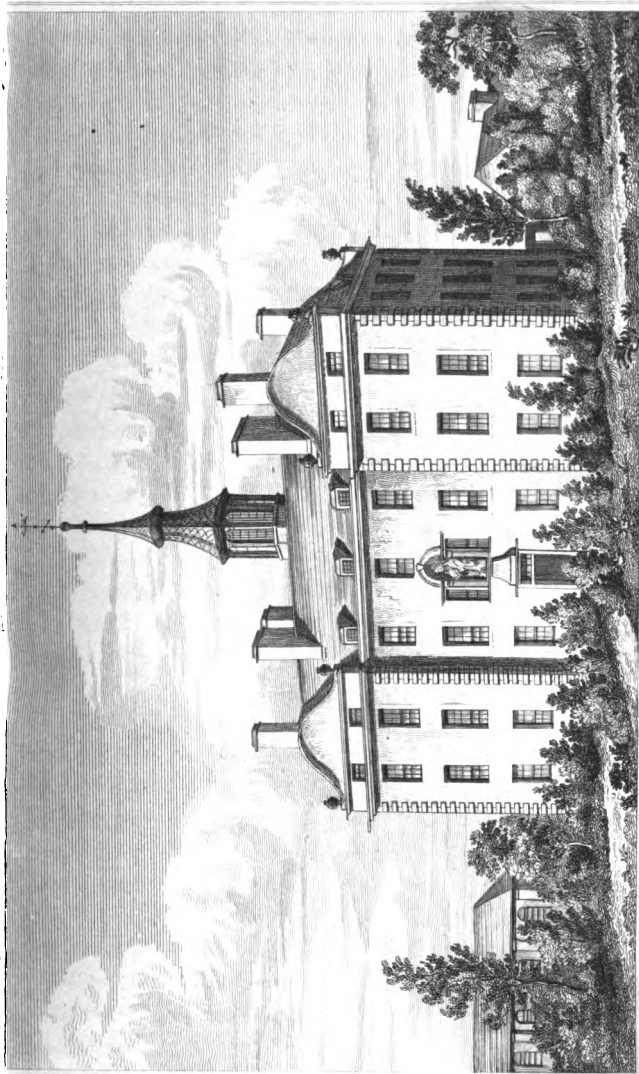
In ancient times, the grammar-school consisted of detached buildings, situated near the site of the present structure. The accommodation, however, was very inconvenient and uncomfortable; therefore the magistrates erected the present building in the year 1757, with part of the funds which Dr. Dunn had left to be applied *solely* to the maintenance of the masters. The school stands on part of the ground which formerly belonged to the Dominican Friars, and is situated in that part of the town which is denominated the School-hill. In the year 1625, a bell was presented to the town-council for the use of the school, by Mr. Robert Ferguson, a bur-gess. It was placed in the belfry of the school, and continued till the end of the 18th century. Its place has not been supplied.

**TRADES' HOSPITAL.** This building consists of two floors, the upper of which is occupied as a hall, where the Trades hold their meetings. The hall is 64 feet long, 17 feet broad, and 17 feet high. The ground floor is set apart for school-rooms and other purposes. On this floor were anciently the refectory, kitchen, and dormitories. None have been received as inmates for many years.



This hospital was founded in the year 1632, by Dr. Guild, one of the town's ministers, and afterward principal of King's College. In the year 1633, Dr. Guild granted to the members of the town's corporations, the monastery and other property which had formerly belonged to the monks of the Holy Trinity, for the benefit of their indigent brethren. The town-council also gave 1000 merks, and the different corporations made liberal contributions for its behoof. The buildings, however, had by this time fallen into decay, and therefore it was found necessary to repair them, previously to the reception of the objects of the charity. Not long after, the hall was erected, and an elegant porch fronting the street. The hall contains several portraits, some of which are tolerable, and others indifferent. There is a large portrait of King William the Lyon, who is exhibited in a very strange costume. There are also several ancient chairs of rude, but curious workmanship; one of which is called King William's chair. Two other chairs have respectively the years 1564 and 1574, marked on them.

ROBERT GORDON'S HOSPITAL. This is a very neat building, consisting of three stories, and is situated at the northern extremity of a large garden, on the ground anciently possessed by the Dominican Friars, School-hill. The length is 86 feet, and the breadth  $33\frac{3}{4}$  feet. A small handsome spire, covered with lead, rises from the centre of the building. Over the principal entry is placed in a niche, a white-marble statue of the benevolent founder, with a female figure, on his left, suckling an infant, and having two naked children at her feet, neatly cut in *alto relievo*. The hall is on the second



G. Smith Del.

# GORDON'S HOSPITAL

Printed by T. B. Rogers, Chicago



floor, and measures about 30 feet in length,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth, and 12 feet in height.

This edifice was erected in the year 1739, according to a plan designed by Mr. James Gibbs architect, at the expense of £3300.

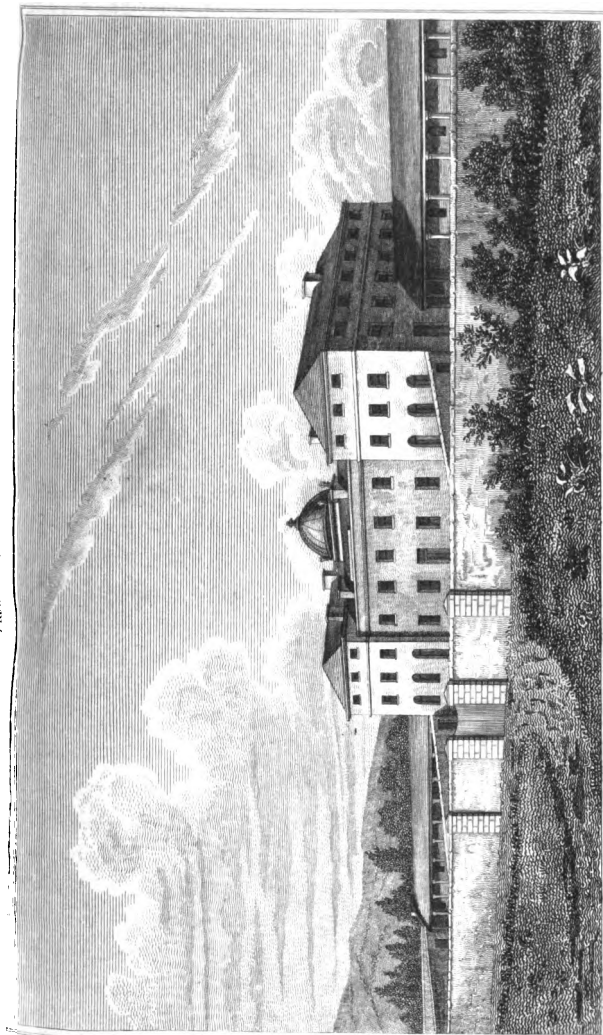
**INFIRMARY.** This is a large building, situated at the west side of the town, near Gilcomston. It is very irregular, in consequence of several additions, in which accommodation more than taste has been consulted, having been made according to the growing necessities of the institution. The main building is 73 feet long, 35 feet broad, and  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, measuring to the top of the wall. The ground-floor consists of a kitchen, domestic apartments, and several cells, that were formerly appropriated to lunatics. The next floor consists of two wards, each containing 10 beds; and the third has the same accommodation. The east wing is 52 feet 5 inches, by  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The ground floor contains the Committee-room and other apartments; the next floor consists of one ward and two closets, containing upward of 20 beds; and the third floor consists of the operation-room, and three closets, having two beds in each. The west wing is 54 feet by  $26\frac{3}{4}$  feet. The ground-floor contains one ward having seven beds, and domestic apartments; next floor has one ward and two closets, containing 15 beds; and the third floor consists of two wards, containing 14 beds. A shop attached to the east wing measures 37 feet by  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet. New fever wards have been erected over the washing house at the north end of the west wing, consisting of two floors, each having 10 beds. The length is  $32\frac{3}{4}$  feet, and breadth  $26\frac{3}{4}$  feet. Floors have also been put over the

shop. The washing house has been converted into a ward containing eight beds. A new washing house, &c. have been fitted up.

The main building was contracted for £584—east wing for £495, and the west wing for £476 : 17s : 6d. Alterations on operation floor, &c. cost £200. The new fever wards cost about £700.

**LUNATIC-ASYLUM.** The Lunatic-Asylum consists of two buildings, one of which was built in 1800, and may be called the Old Lunatic-Asylum; the other, in 1819, and may be called the New Lunatic-Asylum. The insufficiency of the old building for the purposes of the Institution, rendered the erection of a more spacious and commodious one necessary. An adjoining field of three acres, was therefore purchased, and an elegant building erected, according to a plan given by Mr. Archibald Simpson, architect. The Asylum is situated about half a mile from the cross of Aberdeen, to the northwest of the town. There being nothing worthy of notice in the old building, it will be deemed sufficient to subjoin a concise description of the new structure only.

The principal building is 120 feet in front; a compartment of 60 feet in the centre recedes, and contains the principal entrance, visitors' and physicians' parlours, committee-room, and a variety of rooms for convalescent patients of the better rank. The two projections form wings, being a story higher than the centre-part; one contains male and the other female patients. On the ground floor of each wing is a keeper's parlour, having on each side two day or public rooms for patients: from each of these wings radiate two other buildings of one



G. Smith Del.

Engr'd by J. Swan Glasgow

## LUNATIC ASYLUM.



story, each containing 11 paved cells,—these lower buildings form the divisions of the airing grounds. Hence, from the keepers' parlours there is afforded complete inspection of both the patients' day-rooms and airing grounds. A part of the plan, relative to low buildings on the north, has not yet been executed. When these are erected, there will be accommodation for not fewer than 100 patients. Each ward is abundantly supplied with water from cisterns erected in the upper part of the building. The whole has been arranged with anxious regard to the proper classification and comfort of the patients. In short, every thing characteristic of a place of confinement has judiciously been avoided. A simple portico on the entrance-front was intended, by Mr. Simpson the architect, but in place of it, a sun-dial has, against his wish, been substituted, in a vulgar style. Some other deviations from the plan are considered not to be in harmony with the general appearance of the principal building.

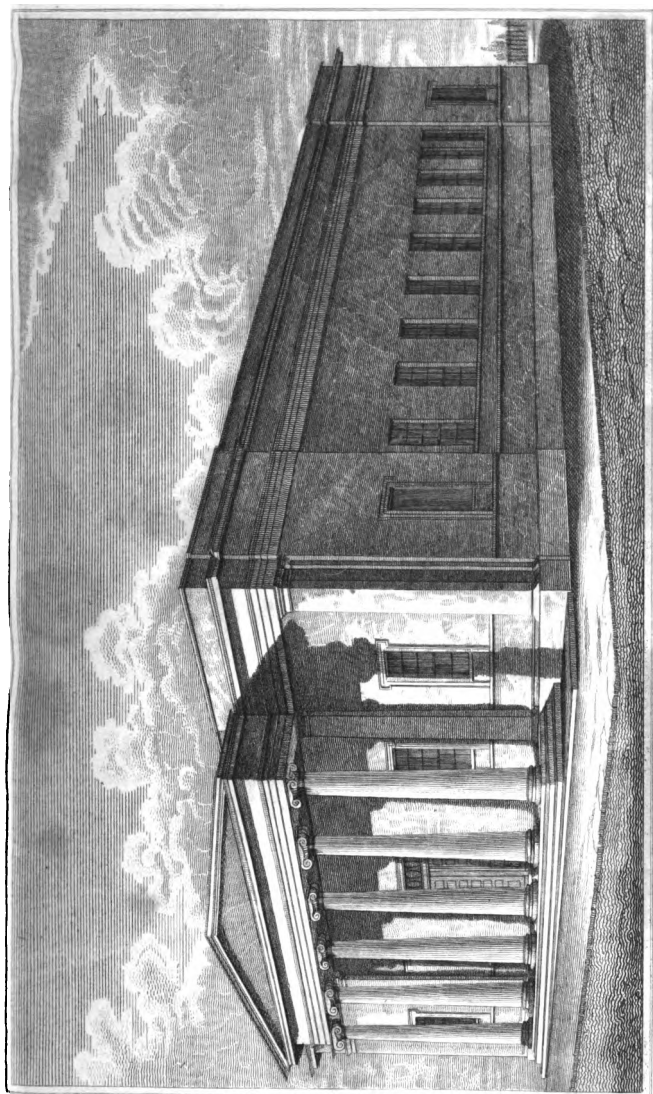
**POOR'S HOSPITAL.** The Poor's Hospital is situated in the Gallowgate. It was purchased in the year 1818 for the sum of £950. It consists of three stories. The ground floor is occupied as a kitchen, servants' room, coal cellar, &c. The second floor contains the school-room, which measures 29 feet by  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet, a store-room, and a room for the accommodation of the teacher. The third floor contains a room used for the meetings of the managers, one for the sick, and two others for the accommodation of the master and mistress. The attic story is set apart for the boys' sleeping rooms. At the back of the house is a court used for the boys' play ground. It is 120 feet by 36 feet. A small house



of two floors, has been built in the front court. One end of the lower part is used for the accommodation of the managers, when they hold their meetings. The other end is set apart as a waiting-room for the poor, having a communication with the other. The entrance to the building was formerly very indifferent; wherefore the managers purchased the stance fronting the street, and have built a genteel house, and erected a spacious entry. The meetings of the Vaccine-Institution, Savings-Bank, and other institutions are held in the Poor's Hospital.

MEDICAL SOCIETY'S HALL occupies the centre-compartment of King-Street, directly opposite to St. Andrew's Chapel. A portico of four Ionic columns, 27 feet high, stands before the whole front to the street. The accommodation required by the society not being sufficient to occupy a suitable insulated building, the society agreed to build the colonnade on the view of the two adjoining buildings being receded and finished to harmonize with it; the whole to present a compartment of uniform extent, to that occupied by the Chapel opposite, and which when completed, will give to the street an elegant and imposing effect. The building contains a handsome lobby and staircase, library and museum, a spacious room for the meetings of the society, committee-room, &c. and the basement contains house-keeper's apartments and offices. It cost £2000: was built in 1818. It does great credit to the abilities of Mr. Archibald Simpson architect, the furnisher of the plan.

PUBLIC ROOMS. The Public Assembly Rooms, intended chiefly for the accommodation of the united



Engr'd by J. Swan Glasgow

# ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

G. Smith Del.



meetings of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, and Forfar, are situated in Union-Street, near the entrance of the town from the south. The end-front is to the street, and, exclusive of a gateway to a private passage in the west, extends 90 feet. It is decorated with a portico of six columns of the Greek Ionic order, being 30 feet in height, and projecting 10 feet from the wall. The building has Silver-Street on the east, along which it extends 156 feet. The principal entrance, under the portico, conducts into an outer vestibule having a flight of six steps leading to the grand saloon, which is 60 feet in length by 20 feet, and is divided into three compartments by fluted Ionic columns, with ornamented capitals, and corresponding pilasters. The centre-part is 32 feet high; and the ceiling is a dome finished with coffering. In the centre of the building, and opening into the saloon through a screen of columns, is a spacious gallery or promenade 70 feet in length, finished with pilasters, and an arched and panelled ceiling. It communicates on one side with the ball-room, which is 70 feet long, 35 feet broad, and 35 feet high; and, on the other side, with the supper or refreshment-room, which is a square of 34 feet. Communicating with this room is the card-saloon, which is a rotunda. It is decorated with eight fluted Corinthian columns and corresponding pilasters, over which the entablature forms a circle of 34 feet diameter, from which springs the ceiling in form of a flat dome with eight compartments intended to be filled with appropriate paintings. Within the columns are four spacious recesses for sofas with niches in the wall behind. The end of the gallery opens into the banqueting-room, which is of

the same dimensions as the ball-room. The walls are finished with pilasters in imitation of Sienna marble with ornamented capitals. The ceiling is divided into large compartments with deep mouldings. At one end is a large semicircular recess, with an orchestra and retiring closets; and, at the other, is a spacious room for butler, &c. There are also on this floor two parlours or withdrawing rooms, each 30 feet by 20 feet—the whole forming a suite of six rooms, opening into each other by lofty folding doors, presenting vistas the whole length of the building. In the upper part are retiring-rooms, two spacious billiard-rooms, and accommodation for a housekeeper. In a half sunk story at the north end are a suitable kitchen and cellars. The expense of erection was about £11,500.

On the 26th April, 1820, the foundation-stone of the Public Rooms was laid with great solemnity, by the Right Hon. JAMES, Earl of FIFE, deputed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in the absence of the Most Noble the Marquis of TWEEDDALE, Deputy Grand Master of Scotland, also of the Right Hon. the Earl of ABOYNE, Provincial Grand Master for Aberdeenshire, and in the presence of the noblemen and gentlemen composing the Committee of Management, and the R. W. Masters, Office-bearers, and Brethren, of all the Lodges of Free-masons, in the city and neighbourhood, besides an immense concourse of spectators, supposed to have been about 10,000 in number. At one o'clock, P. M. the Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Fife, repaired to the Saloon of the New Court-House, where the commission of the Grand Lodge was opened with all due form, in pre-

sence of many noblemen and gentlemen of this county and the neighbouring ones, and also in presence of the R. W. Masters and Wardens of the different Lodges, met upon the occasion, whose attendance was ordered by the Deputy Grand Master, to witness the reading of the commission, and the instalment of the Grand Wardens and other office-bearers, constituting the Grand Lodge for the time. The Grand Lodge having been formed, the Masters and Wardens returned to their respective Lodges, after which, the whole assembled in Castle-Street at half past one o'clock, where they took their respective stations, according to their seniority ; and, on a signal given, the procession advanced exactly at two o'clock along Union-Street, forming an extensive line from the Town-house to Union-bridge, the number of Brethren present being supposed to be not fewer than 1500, while an immense concourse of people of all ranks crowded the streets, which were enlivened by the gay and elegant appearance of ladies—the windows, balconies, &c. in Union-Street, being literally a grand display of beauty and fashion. The Operative Lodge, having reached the building-area of the Public Rooms, halted ; and the whole then opened up, thus forming two lines, through which the Grand Lodge walked up to the south-east corner of the foundation, where the stone was to be deposited. On a table, covered for the purpose, the jewels of the Order were laid. The Grand Master, Substitute Grand Master, and Grand Wardens, then walked up to the ground where the stone lay. The King's Anthem was afterward sung in excellent style, led by Messrs. KNOTT and KEARD, and a select choir of singers. The Grand

Chaplain, Dr. Lee, of St. Andrews, delivered a most impressive and appropriate prayer, after which the Mason's Anthem was sung—"Hail Masonry," &c. In the stone, wherein five holes were cut, the Substitute Grand Master put some coins of his late Majesty's reign, and covered them with a plate, on which the following inscription was engraved :

ABERDEEN PUBLIC ROOMS,  
BUILT BY SUBSCRIPTION.  
FOUNDED WITH MASONIC HONOURS,  
BY JAMES, EARL OF FIFE,  
DEPUTE GRAND MASTER FOR SCOTLAND,  
APRIL 26TH, 1820,  
FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF GEORGE THE FOURTH.  
ARCHIBALD SIMPSON, ARCHITECT.

The Grand Master then standing on the east, with the Substitute on his right hand, and the Grand Wardens on the west, the square, the plum, the level, and the mallet, were successively delivered by an Operative to the Substitute, and by him to the Grand Master and Wardens. The Grand Wardens having then, in due masonic form, laid the foundation-stone, the Grand Master gave three knocks with the mallet, saying ; " May the Great Architect of the Universe grant a blessing on this foundation-stone which we have now laid ; and, by his providence, enable us to finish this and every other work which may be undertaken for the embellishment and advantage of this city !"

An account of the remaining part of the ceremony would exceed the limits of this publication.

**MILITARY BARRACK.** The Aberdeen barrack is situated on the Castle-hill. The principal part of the building is 192 feet long and 46 feet broad. The wings are 66 feet by 46 feet. There are three floors and a sunk story. The building is fitted out to accommodate 600 men; although, according to the usual mode of military accommodation, it is capable of containing double this number. There is an excellent hospital attached to it, situated on an adjoining hill. The expense of erecting and fitting up the barrack amounted to about £16,000. The hospital cost about £2000.

In ancient times there stood within the ramparts of the Castle-hill, a building which was denominated St. Ninian's Chapel. Subsequent to the era of the Reformation, the chapel was appropriated to various purposes of a secular nature. It remained entire until the year 1794, when the magistrates and town-council gratuitously presented to government the whole area of ground comprehended by the ramparts, together with the chapel, for the purpose of erecting a barrack-establishment. The building commenced in the same year, and was finished in 1796. The hospital was built in 1799.

**THEATRE.** The theatre is situated in Marischal-Street. Its erection was undertaken by Mr. Jackson, Manager of the Edinburgh theatre; but he failing when only the walls were finished, it continued in its incomplete state till the year 1795; at which time it was purchased, and the remainder built by subscription. It is finished in a very neat style, according to a design furnished by Mr. Holland the architect. The whole



expense amounted to about £3000 sterling. There is accommodation for about 600 persons. It has been let for some years to Mr. Rider, whose management has given very great satisfaction to the public.

**CUSTOM-HOUSE.** The Custom-house is situated on the Quay, and near the bottom of Marischal-Street. It is a plain building, affording good accommodation to the various departments in the Custom-house business.

The upper part of the house is the residence of Alexander More, Esq. the present Collector.



## V.

## SACRED EDIFICES.

THE first public church built by the Christians, according to some authors, was that of St. Saviour at Rome, founded by the Emperor Constantine about the beginning of the fourth century. After Constantine had embraced the Christian religion, many of the Basilicæ, or courts of justice, in the great cities of the empire, were converted into Christian churches. These having been found convenient for the accommodation of Christian assemblies, new churches were generally built after the same model. These buildings were oblong, and had pillars within the walls of covered cells, which thereby divided the whole breadth into three or four aisles. The principal entrance was at the west end: the east end, where the tribunal was placed, was of a circular form.

Considering the zeal displayed by Constantine in behalf of the Christian church, as it regards, at least, the grandeur of its buildings, and the pomp of its ministers, we might reasonably infer that Britain would, in the erection of churches, have shared his widely extended munificence; accordingly the venerable Bede mentions, that two such edifices were built by him in the city of Canterbury, one of which, situated on the east side of the city, was dedicated to St. Martin.

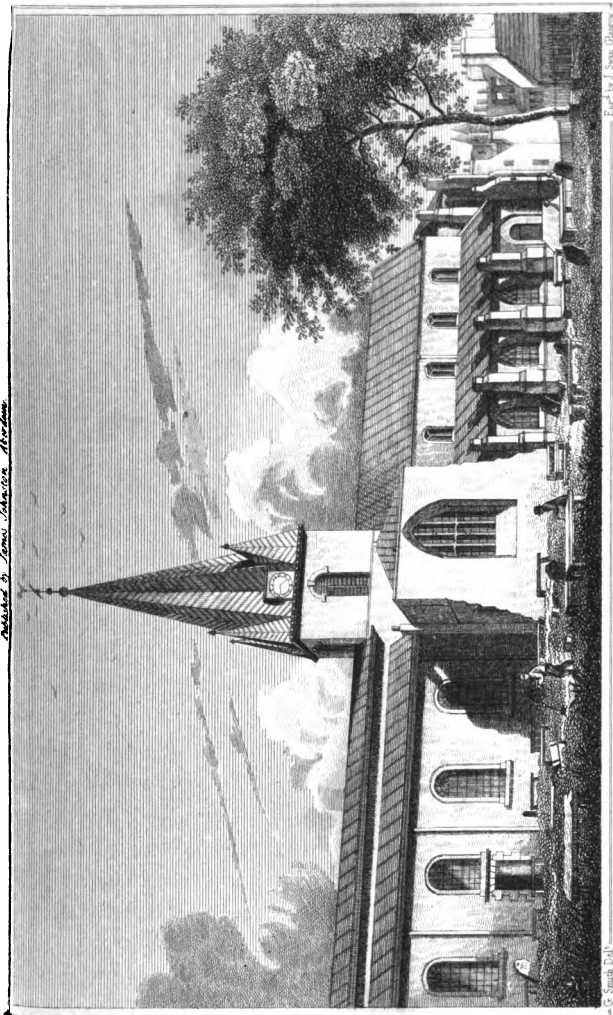
Bingham says, that, about the year 448, Bishop Ninian of Glasgow built an episcopal church, at Whit-horn in Galloway, which probably was the labour of Roman workmen. Unless the circles of rude stones which were placed in the ground, are considered as having been appropriated to religious purposes, nothing resembling churches can be traced north of the Tweed prior to the 7th century. About this time Old Melrose, Coldingham, and a church at Tynningham were founded.

As we shall have occasion, in the course of this chapter, to take notice of a cathedral, it may not be deemed improper to pass a few remarks on the modern and ancient acceptation of the word. Cathedral, at present, signifies a church, where there is a bishop's see or seat. It comes from a Greek word signifying a chair. The denomination cathedral seems to have taken its rise from the manner of sitting practised in the ancient churches or assemblies of primitive Christians: in each of these was the council, that is, the elders and priests, called *presbyterium*; at their head was the bishop, who held the place of chairman, *cathedralis*, or *cathedraticus*; and the presbyters, who sat on each side, were also

called, by the ancient fathers, *assessores episcoporum*. The episcopal authority did not reside in the bishop alone, but in all the presbyters of whom the bishop was only president. It is worthy of remark, that in the times which immediately succeeded the apostolical age, every church had its bishop. The word diocese, by which a bishop's flock is now usually expressed, is never used in that sense, by the writers of the three first centuries. The earliest accounts of English bishops is carried no higher than the time when the council of Arles met; being assembled by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century. It is said that there were present at this council the bishops of London, York, and Carleon.

**TOWN'S CHURCHES.** These churches form one building, and are situated to the north of Union-Street, and east of Union-Bridge. The West-Church stands on the site of the ancient church of St. Nicholas, and the East-Church is that which anciently formed its Quire.

The West-Church is  $100\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and 66 feet broad. The nave of the church is 25 feet broad. The piers of the arches are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 3 feet. There is a gallery on each side, and on each end. The gallery on the east end is appropriated to the magistrates. Here there is an elegant canopy which is supported in the centre by four fluted mahogany columns, of the Corinthian order, having their capitals gilt. There is a pediment in front which has the town's arms cut in *alto relievo*. A deep covering of crimson velvet, with a gold fringe, hangs over the breast of the gallery. The Lord Provost's chair stands under the canopy; and on his right and left sit the magistrates, taking precedence



**ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.**



according to their seniority. There are, on a dead wall at the back of this gallery, two pieces of tapestry, executed by Mary Jamieson, daughter of the celebrated George Jamieson, painter; one of which represents Ahasuerus holding forth his golden sceptre to queen Esther; and the other, Jephtha meeting his daughter on his returning victorious from the field of battle. The gallery in the west end is appropriated to the masters and scholars of the Grammar-School and Gordon's Hospital.

A very elegant pulpit, and clerk's desk, stand on the central pier, on the south side of the nave. The masonry of the building consists of freestone, which was brought in blocks from the estuary of the Forth, except the basement which was formed of dressed granite, procured in the neighbourhood.

The East-Church is a fine Gothic building, but devoid of ornaments, measuring 86 feet in length, exclusive of the chancel, and 64 feet in breadth, including the side aisles. The middle and side-aisles are divided by lofty arches, which are supported by plain Gothic pillars. The church has a double row of galleries in the west end, and a single row on each side: the breasts being in a line with the pillars. The upper gallery, in the west end, is appropriated to seamen, having a ship suspended over it. The chancel measures 18 feet by 12 feet. It is now fitted up with pews for the accommodation of hearers. There was under the chancel a neat chapel, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but it has, in modern times, been occasionally used for secular purposes. On the north side of the Quire or East-Church is situated the vestry in which the kirk-session hold their meetings.

The East and West Churches are separated by great arches, upon which a steeple is supported ; and by two aisles, one of which, on the south, having been the sepulture of the family of Drum, is denominated Drum's Aisle ; and the other, on the north, having been the burial-place of an ancient family of the name of Collison, is known by the designation of Collison's Aisle. Drum's Aisle is the place where the synod and presbytery of Aberdeen hold their meetings. The length of these aisles from north to south is about 100 feet, the breadth 20 feet, and the height 50 feet. From their centre rises a square tower about 12 feet high, forming the basement of the spire. On each corner stands a small wooden spire, formed of strong cross logs of oak, mortised and pinned into one another, and covered with lead. The large spire is constructed of oak, having an octagonal form, and is covered with lead. It rises to a point, and is surmounted with a gilt ball, having a weather cock on the top. The height of the spire is 140 feet, measuring from the ground below. In the tower are placed three bells, of considerable antiquity, which are named *St. Lawrence*, *St. Nicholas*, and *Maria*. There are two other bells which were lately furnished by an order of the town-council. The steeple is also supplied with an excellent clock which chimes the quarters.

As has already been mentioned, the ancient church of Aberdeen was dedicated to St. Nicholas. This Saint was bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, which was a province in Asia Minor. He flourished about the beginning of the 4th century. He was the patron of mariners, with whom he was famous for his miracles

and apparitions by sea. He was also chosen tutelar saint of our borough ; and his name still designates the parish in which the church is situated. In the age of popery, his anniversary was commemorated on the 6th December, with much festivity by the citizens of Aberdeen.

The church was a handsome Gothic building. Its nave measured 117 feet in length, and 64 feet in breadth, including the side aisles. The roof was supported by eight columns on each side. The church had 3 doors and 33 windows. It contained 31 altars. These altars were, by certain individuals, dedicated to various saints, and endowed with property of different kinds, as sources of support to chantry-priests, whose business was to celebrate masses on the founders' anniversaries, and to pray for their souls, and those of their ancestors and descendants. Additional endowments were made to the same alterages by persons who desired to have the same benefit with the original founders. Some of these chantries were instituted by the different corporations, who also supported chaplains, generally by giving a small annuity and supplying them with food at the houses of the principal craftsmen successively. The corporations have chaplains till this day, but for aught we know, they pray for the souls of their patrons, neither when dead nor when alive. Crispinus and Crispianus had a chantry dedicated to them by the cordwainers or shoemakers. Crispinus and Crispianus were brothers, born at Rome. About the year 300, they resolved to travel into France in order to Christianize the natives. They took up their abode at Soissons, where they wrought at their trade of shoe-



making for their support. Heathen persecution, however, soon found them out, and enrolled them in the noble list of Christian martyrs. From this period, they were chosen by the shoemakers as their tutelar saints. At an early age, the hammermen dedicated a chantry to their tutelar patroness, St. Helen.

In the year 1351, William de Leith, afterward provost of Aberdeen, presented to the church the two large bells called *St. Lawrence* and *Maria*. Report says, that he gave the first one as an expiation for the murder of Catanach, one of the baillies. Lawrence being afterward rent by some accident, was sent to Flanders in order to be recast, and was returned in the course of two years. Soon after, *Maria* met with a similar accident, and was accordingly sent to Middleburg where it was recast.

The time when the church was erected remains in a state of uncertainty. That the building was of considerable antiquity cannot be doubted; for it appears, by authentic records, that it was in a flourishing state in the 13th century. The bishop of Aberdeen was parson of the parish of St. Nicholas, and was titular of the tithes both of the parsonage and vicarage, as well as the tithes of certain salmon-fishings on the Dee and Don. The vicar was a dignitary next in rank to the parson. John de Kyngorne, the first that filled the office of vicar, was appointed by Bishop Alexander of Kyninmunde I. in the year 1342. The vicar of St. Nicholas was generally the sixth prebendary of the cathedral. The curate and chaplains were the officiating ministers. Some of the chaplains held their office during life, while others were employed as tem-

porary priests. All these with the vicar formed an ecclesiastical college, constituted by certain statutes which were enacted by Bishop Ingeram Lindesay, about the year 1441; and confirmed by Bishop Thomas Spens his successor. The curate was president of the college in the vicar's absence. In the year 1491, there were 22 chaplains and clerks belonging to the church. In the year 1544, John Leslie, afterward Bishop of Ross, was nominated one of the prebendaries, receiving at the same time the appointment of organist, and teacher of the song-school.

In the year 1477, the magistrates and town-council, at the solicitation of Bishop Spens, commenced the erection of the Quire of St. Nicholas on the east end of the church. John Gray and Richard Ancram were appointed architects and master-masons; the former having a yearly salary of 25 merks, and the latter of 20 merks. Alexander Chalmers, provost of Aberdeen, superintended the execution of the work, in consequence of an order granted by the town-council. The stones used in the structure were imported by sea from Caussie, in Moray. The lime wrought into mortar was brought from Dysart, at the rate of 16s. per chalder. Ten fother of lead, each weighing 128 stones, were imported from England, for covering the roof, in exchange for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lasts of salmon. The building was finished after the lapse of 30 years, and consecrated, in 1508, with the usual solemnities, by William Elphinston, Bishop of Aberdeen. The magistrates provided a splendid entertainment for the Bishop and his attendants, and afterward presented to him two pun-

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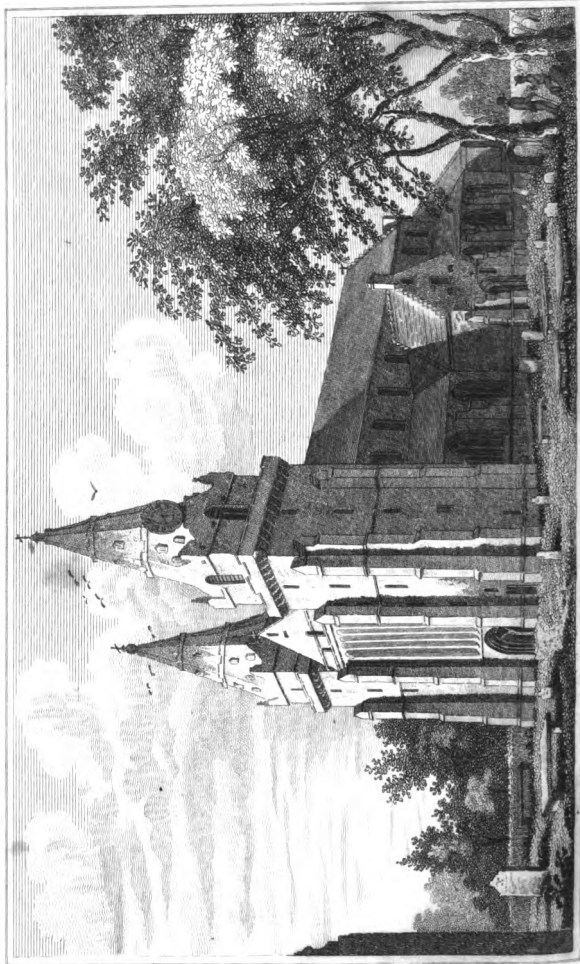
cheons of claret, with wax and sweet meats; the expense of the whole amounting to £16 : 3s : 8d.

At the Reformation, the church and its quire were divested of their altars, stalls, and carved work. In short, nothing remained but the naked walls, and the columns of the nave. In so far, this ancient place of worship was purged. But a more rational mode of worship was also introduced. The people, and not their substitutes, began to attend to the concerns of their own souls. The prayers offered up by the minister were heard by the people, and received their hearty acquiescence. In this capacious edifice, the praises of God were not entrusted to the performance of an interested choir; but were devoutly and reverently sung by the assembled congregation. For some time after this, those who wished to sit during sermon were under the necessity of bringing seats along with them; and only the wives of burgesses and some of the principal inhabitants were allowed to sit in the nave of the church. Not long after, however, the magistrates permitted such of the principal citizens as were inclined, to fit up pews for the accommodation of their families. The members of the several corporations and of other public bodies, were, by the authority of the town-council, allowed to erect galleries between the columns of the nave, the expense of which was defrayed by themselves. The magistrates put up a gallery for King James VI. who frequently attended during his occasional visits. This gallery was afterward distinguished by the name of the King's Seat.

The ancient church of St. Nicholas having fallen into a state of decay, about the beginning of the 18th



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century, was abandoned about the year 1732 ; and the columns of the nave giving way, the whole fabric fell to pieces, in the year 1742. In 1751, the magistrates entered into a contract with James Wyllie, mason, Archibald Chessels, and James Heriot, wrights of Edinburgh, for the erection of a church, on the site of the old one, conformably to a plan which had, some years before, been gratuitously presented to the magistrates by Mr. James Gibbs, a native of Aberdeen, and then an eminent architect in London. The charge of building was £4000 per contract, and £600 for extra work, besides the expense of the lead which was employed in covering the roof and steeple. The undertaking was completed in the autumn of 1755. The church was opened for divine worship by Mr. James Ogilvie, one of the town's ministers, on Sunday the 9th November the same year.

James Ross, D. D. and Mr. Robert Doig, are ministers of the East-Church ; and W. L. Brown, D. D. Principal of Marischal-College, and George Glennie, D. D. Professor of Moral Philosophy, are ministers of the West-Church.

**OLD MACHAR-CHURCH.** This church is situated at the north extremity of Old Aberdeen, in the parish of Old Machar, which contains within its bounds Old Aberdeen and a considerable part of New Aberdeen. The building consists of the nave of a cathedral which was founded by Bishop Alexander Kyninmunde II. about the middle of the 14th century. The length of the nave, including the aisles, is 126 feet, and the width  $67\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The side walls of the nave of the church are about 42 feet high, and are supported by a

range of pillars on each side, the height of which being about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the diameter a little more than 3 feet. Over these pillars are laid seven Gothic arches, extending the whole length of the side walls of the church. "Between the top of the arches and the level of the walls on each side, there is an open passage in the centre of the wall, from one end to another; the height of which is  $5\frac{3}{4}$  feet by 1 foot 10 inches wide. There are galleries in each side of the church on a line with the pillars, extending backward the whole breadth of the aisles. On both sides there are two heights of galleries in several of the arches; and the east end is appropriated for the accommodation of the members of King's College. The pulpit and reader's desk are in the north side. In the east end of the church there still remains one of the Gothic arches which supported the great steeple; but it is now built up for enclosing the church. The columns of this arch are entire, and resemble trunks of trees bound together. Their capitals have been ornamented, and display beautiful foliage in high relief." "At the west end two steeples still remain entire, except that some of the ornaments of the belts which surround them have fallen down from decay. They rise square from the ground about 52 feet high, when three projecting courses of stones are laid, one above the other, with spaces between each, their projection being about 15 inches without the wall. At the extremity of this part of the work there is raised a parapet or breast wall of four courses of ashler all around the tower. At this level their breadth is diminished about 16 inches on each side; they are then set off to an octagonal form, diminishing as they rise

in height. The spires are divided into three stories by two projecting courses of stones; and terminate in a point, on which there is an iron cross.

There flourished in the end of the 9th century one Macarius, who was canonized after his death. It is said that he built, on the spot of ground where the present church is situated, a place of worship which, subsequently to his decease, was dedicated to his name. On the same site, Matthew Kyninmunde, third bishop of Aberdeen, founded a church which was also dedicated to St. Macarius or Machar. This edifice was demolished, in the end of the 13th century, by Bishop Cheyne, with the design of rebuilding it. The civil war, however, soon breaking out, and the bishop being soon after obliged to go into exile, the erection of the building was consequently abandoned. King Robert Bruce replaced the bishop in his former situation, and ordered the church to be rebuilt, and the expense to be paid from the revenue of the see. Bishop Alexander Kyninmunde II. as has already been stated, commenced the erection of the cathedral upon the site of the former church which he had caused to be demolished. Little progress, however, was made during his life, for it had advanced only six cubits in height at the time of his death, 1381. His successors, Adam de Tynninghame and Gilbert Greenlaw, proceeded in the erection of the building, according to the extent of their means. Henry de Lychtoun, the next bishop, laid the foundation of the great steeple on the east end, and those of the two towers on the west end. His successor Bishop Lindsay, completed the roof of the nave about the year 1445. The edifice seems to have made no farther



progress till the time of Bishop Elphinston, who was appointed to the see in the year 1484. The work was renewed by him with great zeal, the choir on the east rebuilt, and the roof covered with lead, the expense of which was defrayed by the liberality of James IV. About the year 1510, the worthy bishop completed the great steeple, after the plan of that of the Perth church; at the same time furnishing it with three bells which had been brought from England, weighing 12,000lbs. It was left to Bishop Dunbar, Elphinston's successor, to enjoy the honour of completing this venerable edifice. He finished the turrets on the west end, and erected, about the year 1522, the south part of the transept, which was afterwards distinguished by the name of Bishop Dunbar's Aisle. "He also ceiled the nave of the church with the finest oak, of excellent and curious workmanship, which may vie with any thing of the kind in Scotland. It consists of three compartments of square pannels, joining at the opposite angular points. On these pannels are painted the arms and titles of the princes, nobles, and prelates, who contributed towards the expense of the building. Along the top of the walls are likewise inscribed the names of the successive sovereigns, from Malcom II. to Queen Mary, on the south side; also of the several bishops, from Nectanus to William Gordon, the last Roman Catholic prelate, on the north side. All these inscriptions, as well as those on the roof, are painted in the old black Saxon character, but its great height renders them very difficult to be read."

"The lofty steeple on the east end, which, in those days, was a sea-mark, and contained three bells, which

had been presented to it by Bishop Patrick Forbes, fell to the ground, in the year 1688, and by its fall, crushed all the eastern part of the fabric, destroyed many of the sepulchral monuments, and materially injured part of the nave. The height of the steeple, which was surmounted by a globe and brass weather-cock, was about 150 feet; and its fall according to tradition, was occasioned by part of the stones of the buttresses having been removed and carried off by the English army, stationed in Aberdeen during the Protectorate, for the purpose of erecting some works of fortification on the Castle-hill."

"The body of the church, which had been saved by the Earl of Huntly, remained in a neglected state for many years. In 1607, it was repaired and covered with slates at the expense of the parishioners of Old Machar. During the different periods of Protestant episcopacy in Scotland, it served as a cathedral; and since the Revolution, it has been used as a parish-church. It has lately been repaired in a substantial manner, and the interior is neatly fitted up, and forms a large and commodious place of worship."

Skene Ogilvie D. D. and Mr. Patrick Forbes, ministers.

- ST. CLEMENT'S CHAPEL, or FOOTDEE-CHURCH. Foot-dee-Church is 55 feet long and 21 feet broad, inside. An aisle 10 feet in depth projects from the back. There is a tower 45 feet high, in which is to be placed a clock which was given by the magistrates. It is hoped a bell may be added soon.

In the year 1498, a chapel dedicated to St. Clement, was erected on the site of the present church of Footdee

by the magistrates and town-council, for the devotional exercises of the white-fishers. These were required to contribute annually for the chaplain's support, at the rate of two shillings for each master of a boat with two lines, and one shilling for each boatman. After the Reformation, the chapel was allowed to fall into decay. In the year 1631, many of the citizens entered into a contribution for the purpose of establishing a church in that part of the town, and making a permanent provision for a minister. The sum raised amounted to £4000 Scots, and was placed in the hands of the magistrates and town-council. The chapel, consequently, was soon after repaired and fitted up as a place of worship, and consecrated by its former name. The surplus of the subscriptions and donations was expended in the purchase of grounds lying in the vicinity of the church, as a permanent source of income to the minister. These grounds are distinguished by the name of Footdee Glebe. In the year 1787, the old fabric was demolished, and the present one erected in its place in 1788. It had then only one gallery, which was appropriated to the families of pilots and fishermen. As the population of this quarter of the town has since very much increased, and consequently the congregation become numerous, two galleries were added in 1798; and in 1811, the aisle, with a gallery, was projected to the back. It is in contemplation to enlarge the church further by enclosing the area in front. It is intended to erect a spire upon the tower at some future period.

• John Thomson, M. D. is the present minister, he was appointed to the church in the year 1787. He is the twelfth Protestant clergyman who has officiated in

Footdee church. The Lord's Supper was administered in 1798, for the first time since the Reformation.

GREY FRIARS' CHURCH, or COLLEGE-CHURCH. This church is situated on the east of Broad-Street, near Marischal-College. It is said to have been erected by Bishop Dunbar for the Grey Friars, about the beginning of the 16th century. After the Reformation, the magistrates and town-council, by a charter granted by King James VI. in 1567, acquired a right to the property of those Friars, for the purpose of establishing an hospital, designed for the reception of infants, orphans, and indigent persons who were lame and disabled. This intended institution not having taken place, the whole property, except the church, was sold in the year 1576, for the consideration of an annual feu duty. It was repurchased in the year 1592, for the sum of 1800 merks, and given to George Earl Marischal, for the site of the college which he was about to establish. In the year 1617, the church, which had lain in a neglected state for many years, was, by an order of the town-council, repaired and fitted up with pews. A few years after, a gallery was erected for the accommodation of the magistrates.

About the year 1644, Sir Thomas Crombie, of Kemnay, demised a certain sum of money as a fund, the produce of which was to be appropriated to the support of a minister. Accordingly, the magistrates have been in the practise of presenting to the church the person who is appointed professor of divinity in Marischal-College. The professor of divinity is also appointed one of the ministers of St. Nicholas'-Church, where he discharges his ministerial duties, his place in the

Grey Friars' Church being supplied by an assistant. The assistant was, in former times, paid out of the public funds, but latterly, he has received the rents arising from the seats of the chapel. Principal Brown is the tenth incumbent, and Mr. Andrew Tawse the seventh assistant.

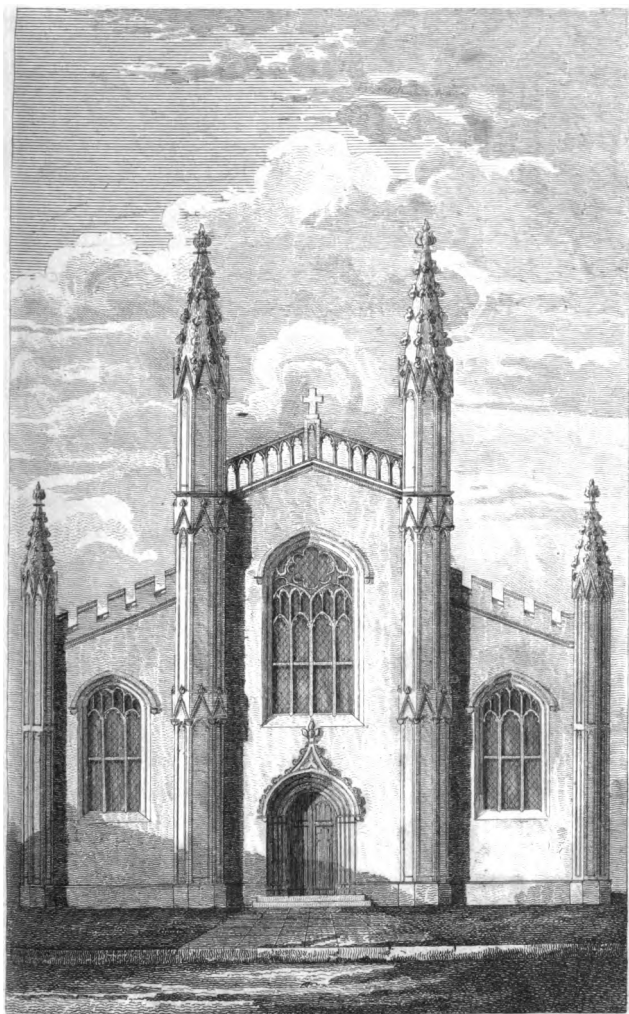
**ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL.** This chapel was built in the year 1721, for the accommodation of such of the Episcopalians as refused to submit to the jurisdiction of Scottish bishops. It contains 1000 persons. John Rickart of Auchnacant, was a benefactor to a considerable extent. Messrs. James Cordiner, and William Wilkinson, are the present clergymen.

**ST. ANDREW'S CHAPEL.** This elegant edifice was built in 1813, from a design furnished by Mr. Archibald Simpson. It occupies the centre compartment of the east side of King-Street. The gable, or end, fronts the street, presenting a centre and side-aisles, the corners of which are ornamented with lofty octagonal turrets, those on each side of the entrance being upward of 80 feet in height. The turrets are finished with panelling, and richly crocketed pinnacles and ingo of the entrance-gate is embellished with clustered columns, and crocketed mouldings—the windows are finished with tracery in a correspondent style.

The sides of the church being of plain rubble building, have at present a rather bad effect, which however will be done away when the street is filled up on each side, as the appearance from the street will then be confined to the handsome facade, as engraved in the plate.

The interior presents a simple style of Gothic archi-

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GEOMETRICAL DRAWING OF  
ST ANDREW'S CHAPEL.



ture, corresponding to the entrance-front, the aisles bewided with clustered columns, supporting the centre which is finished with a groined ceiling, and handsome mouldings and ornaments. The pulpit, reading-desk, and fronts of the galleries, are finished with oak in an appropriate style. The altar is in the east end, over which is a spacious and handsome window. At the west end is a large and fine toned organ, built by Messrs. Muir and Wood of Edinburgh. The erection of the building cost about £6000.

**ST. PETER'S CHAPEL.** This church is situated at the north-east end of Castle-Street, at the bottom of a court. Its length, exclusive of the chancel, is 70 feet, and its breadth 35 feet. The depth of the chancel is 23 feet. An addition was made to the gallery in the year 1814, for the accommodation of the choir, and an excellent organ. The interior is handsomely finished. The house contains 800 persons, for which number it is at present let. The worshippers are of the Catholic persuasion. Mr. Charles Gordon, priest.

**ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL.** This building has a small spire on the north end. The interior is handsomely finished. The church contains about 500 persons. The worshippers are of the Scotch Episcopal Church. Mr. Patrick Cheyne is minister.

### *Chapels of Ease.*

**CHAPEL OF EASE, Gilcomston.** This is a Chapel of Ease to the parish of Old Machar. It was built in the year 1771, is 60 feet square within walls, and contains about 1500 persons. James Kidd, D. D. Prof. O. L. Marischal-College, is minister.



CHAPEL OF EASE, *Belmont-Street*, was erected in the year 1779, and contains about 1000 persons. Mr. John Bryce is minister.

FIRST CHAPEL OF EASE, *Shiprow*, or TRINITY CHAPEL. This chapel was built in 1794. The congregation exceeds 1400 persons. Mr. John Murray is minister.

SECOND CHAPEL OF EASE, *Shiprow*, is in the course of being built. It is intended to accommodate upwards of 1500 hearers.

GAELIC CHAPEL. This is a small church situated in Gaelic-lane, near Belmont-Street. It was built about the year 1795, for the use of Highlanders. The expense was about £850 sterling.

#### *Dissenting Chapels.*

ORIGINAL ASSOCIATE CHAPEL, *Netherkirkgate*. This chapel was built about the year 1772, for £800 sterling. Mr. William Primrose is minister.

ANTIBURGHER ASSOCIATE CHAPEL, *Belmont-Street*, was built in 1779, and contains upward of 800 persons. Mr. James Templeton is minister.

ORIGINAL ANTIBURGHER ASSOCIATE CHAPEL, *Skene-Street*, was built in 1810, is 46 feet by 36 feet, and has Mr. John Aitken for minister.

FIRST CHAPEL of the UNITED SECESSION-CHURCH, *Correction-mynd*, was built in 1801; measures 44 feet by 42 feet, and contains about 700 persons. Mr. Henry Angus is minister.

SECOND CHAPEL of the UNITED SECESSION-CHURCH, *Tannery-Street*, was built in 1822, and is 51 feet square, within walls, and cost about £1200 sterling. This

is the first new Chapel in the United Secession-Church.

OLD RELIEF CHAPEL, *Shiprow*, was erected in 1780; measures 60 feet by 40 feet, and contains 1000 persons. Mr. Patrick Ross is minister.

RELIEF CHAPEL, *St. Andrew-Street*, was built about the year 1804, and contains about 900 persons. Mr. Samuel M'Millan is minister.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL, *Long-Acre*. This house was built for the Scotch Episcopalians in the year 1795, and was purchased by the Wesleyan Methodists in the year 1818, for £680. It contains 1000 persons. Mr. Thomas Bridgman is superintendent.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, *George-Street*, was built in 1797, and is 49 feet square within walls. Mr. Alexander Thomson is minister.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, *Frederick-Street*, was built about the year 1806, of the old materials of Mr. Blake's Church, Netherkirkgate. It contains about 700 persons. Mr. Richard Penman is minister.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, *Black Friars-Street*, was built in 1821; measures 56 feet by 54 feet; cost £1200, and contains 1000 persons. Mr. James Spence is minister.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, *Union-Terrace*, is in the course of being built, measures 60 feet by 50 feet. Mr. John Gilmour is minister.

## VI.

## MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

*Constitution of the Borough.*

THE constitution of the borough, was originally vested in an alderman and four baillies, with a common-council, elected with the consent and assent of the community, assembled in the guild-court.

The duties of the chief magistrate were, to appoint the time and place; and to preside at the meetings of the community called by bell or trumpet. He not only carried their decrees into execution, but, in time of danger from the incursions of an enemy, was their leader and commander.

The baillies were subordinate judges in local affairs occurring among the inhabitants; and for some centuries, it appears, were also the stewards of the revenues of the borough.

It seems from the earliest records of the magistrates and town-council, commencing in 1398, that the election of the office-bearers took place on the Monday immediately after Michaelmas, in the Baillies' Court, with the assent and consent of the whole community. The election upon this day continued until the end of the 16th century, when it took place on the Wednesday preceding Michaelmas; which practice has been preserved till the present time.

In the year 1469, an act of parliament was passed, ordaining the old council annually to choose the new;

and both together, to elect the whole of the office-bearers. But this ordinance was not obeyed until 1479, when, in conformity to the statute, the old council nominated the new, and both conjointly nominated the office-bearers. This took place in consequence of a letter from the king; but for 10 years, the act of parliament seems to have been quite disregarded.

But it was not reserved for the citizens only of our day to perceive the evils of this system. Scarcely had a century elapsed, when its effects became so manifest, that, in the year 1588, loud complaints were made of abuses in the management of the affairs of the borough, especially of the funds, which were alleged to have been dissipated, and given away to the advantage of individuals in office. These charges were made by Mr. John Cheyne of Fortrie, advocate in Aberdeen, and Alexander Ewen, burgess of guild, with some others who had obtained places in the council. At this period, the members composing the council, were in general elected for life, or during good behaviour.

These complaints were first agitated before the Convention of Boroughs, which assembled at Aberdeen on the 8th June, 1590; but the Convention, being only a court of delegates, could afford no redress of grievances complained of by the burgesses. They next applied to the supreme civil court, for a reduction of the elections of the last 30 years, and a redress of grievances; but, instead of redress, their lordships pronounced a decret, finding the election of 1591 valid, and subjecting the complainers to the costs of suit. The election, however, of 1592 was abandoned, and the whole contro-

versy became the subject of arbitration—the sovereign being oversman, and four lords of session, with four clergymen, and four burgesses of guild of the city of Edinburgh, as umpires. After a solemn hearing of the parties, a decree arbitral was pronounced upon the 7th of December following, appointing certain persons to the offices of provost, baillies, and counsellors, who were to remain in office until the Wednesday immediately preceding Michaelmas; and enjoining also the strict observance of the acts of parliament concerning the election of magistrates and council in all time coming.

But though this decree arbitral settled the question of election, and the number of burgesses of guild and craftsmen of which the council was to consist, yet the powers of the corporations of artificers were not defined, neither did it fix the precise number of members of which the old and new councils were to consist. These points, therefore, were proposed to be referred to the arbitration of the Convention of Royal Boroughs; and to this the citizens cordially assented. The Convention, to which these points were referred, met at Aberdeen on the 5th day of July, 1596; and after hearing the merits of the questions at issue, pronounced the following award, which is denominated the *set* of the borough: *viz.* that two craftsmen of the old council, and two of the new, with the six deacons only, being ten persons, were to have votes in the election of provost, baillies, and other office-bearers; and in case any of their number happened to be absent on that day, it should be lawful for the remaining members to elect another in his place. It was decided also, that the

provost, baillies, and other members of the old and new councils, burgesses of guild, should not exceed the number of thirty persons; with power to elect other burgesses to vote at the election, instead of those who might be absent—thus making the whole to consist of forty persons, with power granted to the provost, in case of an equality, to have the casting vote.

The offices in the council are designated as follow: the provost, the four baillies, the dean of guild, the treasurer, the master of shore-works, the master of kirk and bridge-works, the master of mortifications, the master of guild-brethren's hospital, six merchant-counsellors, and two trades' counsellors.

The magistrates and town-council have vested in them the patronage of St. Nicholas, Greyfriars', and St. Clement's churches; as also of several offices in Marischal-College, the Grammar-School, and many other offices of trust and emolument in the town; besides the administration of several public institutions, and the funds belonging to the guildry, as well as of property, both in lands and money, destined by benevolent individuals for charitable and pious purposes. They also appoint a delegate to vote at the election of a member of parliament for the district of boroughs, comprehending Aberdeen, Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Bervie.

### *Incorporations.*

We have already remarked, that the artificers anciently supported certain characters in the religious dramas, pageants, and plays, which were performed in the ages of Popery. It is supposed, that in consequence

of such duties being devolved upon them, they formed themselves into societies according to their several occupations. In their secular affairs, however, they were, by various acts of parliament, placed under the control and direction of the magistrates, who regulated their wages, and the prices of their wares and commodities. The earliest account which we have of such associations, is in the year 1424, when it was ordained by a statute of King James I. that, in every town, each company of artificers should annually elect one of their number to be deacon, or *master-man*, who was authorized to oversee the work of the rest.

The corporations of Aberdeen were originally the litsters or dyers; the smiths and hammermen; the tailors; the skimmers and furriers; the cordwainers or shoemakers; the fleshers; the barbers; the wrights, coopers, and masons; and the bakers.

During the reign of James VI., disputes were maintained between the burgesses and craftsmen, relative to the rights of trafficking as merchants, which had been claimed by the incorporations. The matter was contested in a question before the privy-council, and was at last, in the year 1587, referred to the arbitration of certain persons, who nominated Mr. Cheyne, commissary of Aberdeen, as oversman. By their decree arbitral, or *common indenture*, as it has since been called, the craftsmen were declared to be entitled to the privilege of buying and selling all kinds of Scotch wares within the kingdom, except certain staple commodities; of dealing in certain staple commodities by retail; and of selling, either by wholesale or retail, within Scotland, their own manufactures, serges, worsteds, and such

stuffs as they were formerly accustomed to manufacture.

The present number of corporations is seven. They are as follows.

**I. THE HAMMERMEN.** The first act of the town-council relative to the corporation of hammermen, took place in September, 1519, when their deacons were empowered to exact certain fees of their brethren, and to exercise authority over them. Their rights were farther extended by another act, which passed in the year 1532. Subsequently to the Reformation, they were permitted to appropriate to a fund, for the relief of their indigent brethren, the ancient dues payable by the members, as well as the annuities which belonged, to their chantry in the church.

In the year 1633, the skinners and furriers were, by an act of council, united with the incorporation of hammermen. The corporation previously consisted of blacksmiths, goldsmiths, cutlers, saddlers, clock and watch-makers, copper and tin-smiths, plumbers, armourers, pewterers, and fish-hook-makers.

**II. THE BAKERS.** The bakers were recognised as a company as early as the year 1398. The magistrates regulated the weight of their bread from time to time, according to the price of grain.

There were 11 public bakers under the sanction of the magistrates in the year 1458.

**III. THE WRIGHTS AND COOPERS.** This corporation obtained their original seal of cause on the 5th August, 1527. Masons were also included. In a deed given in 1541, carvers and painters were included. The



masons, however, did not continue long in union with them.

IV. THE TAILORS. The tailors were recognised in a corporate capacity, about the year 1511. In the year 1533, they obtained a seal of cause which conferred upon them equal powers and privileges with the hammermen.

V. THE SHOEMAKERS. It does not appear that this corporation ever received a formal seal of cause. They were, however, recognised as a corporate body, in the years 1484 and 1520.

VI. THE WEAVERS. The deacons of this corporation were approved by the council, and sworn into office in the year 1449.

VII. THE FLESHERS AND BUTCHERS. These originally dealt in fish as well as flesh, but were prohibited in the year 1518 from practising more trades than one. They received a seal of cause in the year 1534. It does not seem that they were like other corporations in the practice of sending their deacon to the town-council, or had a vote in the election of the magistrates and other office-bearers.

None but freemen are allowed to manufacture within the city, although others have the privilege of selling flesh within it.

The affairs of each corporation are under the direction of a deacon, box-master, and masters, who are chosen annually. The duty of the box-master is, to collect and disburse the money belonging to the corporation throughout the year. His books are audited at the end of his year in office, by a committee chosen for the purpose.

In the year 1609, a common fund was instituted by the corporations, which was intended to afford pecuniary relief to members contributing to it; if they should happen to be reduced to indigence. This fund was put under the administration of a court of 33 members, deputed by the different corporations. The court is composed of the convener and his predecessor in office, the master of hospital, the seven deacons and their predecessors in office, the seven box-masters, a master from each corporation, and the two counsellors. The convener and master of hospital are elected annually by the members of whom the court is composed. As has been mentioned in a former part of the work, Dr. Guild founded an hospital for the indigent members of the corporation.—Hence one of the convener-court has his title of master of hospital. One of the town's ministers is chosen patron for life, according to the will of the founder.

There are two funds for widows, one instituted in the year 1771, producing £5 yearly to each widow; and the other in 1816, by Convener John Lesslie, which is not yet in operation.

The corporations have in their possession certain trophies gained by their predecessors at the battle of Harlaw, under Provost Davidson in 1411. These trophies are annually exhibited at their elections. The wrights and coopers returned their sword to M'Donald of Lochiel the representative of the chieftain from whom it is reported to have been taken, receiving in exchange a silver-mounted dirk.

*Society of Advocates.*

The members of this society have authority to conduct business before the sheriff, commissary, baillie, and justice of peace courts ; but possess no privileges beyond those that are common to the procurators of the other sheriff-courts of Scotland: It would seem, that, from an early period, they had exercised the office of procurators, in consequence of permission having been granted by the respective judges of the ancient consistorial court, the sheriff and the borough courts, after having been found qualified for the duties of this office.

In the year 1633, Sir Thomas Crombie, of Kemnay, sheriff-depute of the county, passed an act of court, in which he named those who were empowered to conduct judicial proceedings, and prohibited all others from officiating before his judicatory. The number recognised was sixteen. After this period the advocates considered themselves as constituent members of the courts in Aberdeen, and controlled, in future, the admission of every candidate. They were erected into a corporate body in the year 1774, and had their privileges confirmed in more ample terms in 1799.

In 1685, a fund was instituted for indigent members, their widows, orphans, and nearest relations. The fee of admission was stated at 500 merks, and that of the son of a member, £100 Scots. The widows of members receive an annuity of £30 Sterling ; children and relatives of deceased members smaller annuities.

In 1786 a library was established which contains a great many useful books, chiefly on law subjects.

The books are accommodated in an apartment in the new Court-house.

The number of members belonging to the society in 1821 was 93.

### *Police-Establishment.*

In the years 1632 and 1682, a plan was proposed by the magistrates for bringing water into the town by means of leaden pipes. The first proposal was acceded to by the citizens, who were willing to submit to an assessment for defraying the expenses; but the civil commotions which raged in the kingdom at the time, prevented the accomplishment of this scheme. At the second period, the proposal did not meet a cordial reception. In the year 1706, a plan proposed by the magistrates was adopted. The expenses were to be paid, in the first place, out of the public funds; and the sum thus advanced, to be liquidated by yearly instalments; the surplus of the yearly assessment over the yearly expenditure being placed into a sinking fund. The springs of Cardenhaugh were collected into a reservoir, near that place, and the water was conducted by leaden pipes to a cistern, which was situated about the middle of Castle-Street. In 1766, water was brought from the fountain near the mill of Gilcomston, into a reservoir erected in Broad-Street, containing about 450 hogsheads, and into a small reservoir in the green.

In the year 1794, a bill was brought into parliament, for the "better paving, lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving the streets, lanes, and other passages of the city;" but on account of two clauses

which it contained was successfully opposed by the inhabitants. In the interval, however, between the sessions, a better understanding took place between the magistrates and the citizens; so that the objectionable clauses were expunged, and the bill passed. This bill took effect on the 1st day of June 1795, and remained in force for 21 years. A new act, with enlarged powers, was passed in 1818, to continue for the same period. In the second act, authority is granted for "maintaining a regular patrol or nightly watch, for the protection and security of the city and inhabitants of Aberdeen." The assessment exacted under the new act is 1s. 6d. per pound, on the yearly rent paid for shops and dwelling-houses above £2 sterling: one half, for manufactories.

The whole amount of assessment made under the first act is £24,927 : 5s : 7d. and the expenditure, £30,933 : 7s : 10½d.

The amount of police and watch-assessments and watch-subscription received from 1st June 1818 till 30th March 1822 is £9,469 : 10s : 5½d, and the expenditure, £13,637 : 14s : 0d½; of which there was expended in the year ending 30th March 1822, the sum of £4,496 : 8s : 7d.

By the first act, the management of the police was vested in 13 commissioners chosen by the inhabitants, —three for the *Even quarter*, three for the *Footdee quarter*, three for the *Green quarter*, and four for the *Crooked quarter*; by the second act it is vested in 16 commissioners, 13 of whom are chosen by the inhabitants, and the remaining three are the provost, treasurer, and dean of guild, of the city, for the time being.

By both acts, the election of commissioners is biennial, or every two years. By the first act, five of the old commissioners were chosen by themselves to manage affairs, along with eight new commissioners, chosen by the other inhabitants; the five of a succeeding election being taken from the eight of the preceding: by the second act, only four are chosen by the commissioners, and nine by the inhabitants; two from each of the *Even, Fooldee, and Green quarters*, and three from the *Crooked quarter*. By both acts, persons who are assessed in the sum of £5 sterling of yearly rent, are qualified to elect commissioners. By the first act, persons assessed, in the rent roll, in the sum of £10 sterling, were qualified to become commissioners; by the second act, they must be assessed in the sum of £20 sterling.

The commissioners give their labours gratuitously. The clerk has a yearly salary of £100; and a superintendent of watchmen has been recently appointed with a salary of the same amount. There are, during summer, 24 watchmen, each receiving 10s: 6d. per week. During winter, a few additional watchmen are employed.

Public lamps were first used in Aberdeen in the year 1721. In 1742 the number of lamps was 49. Some years after they amounted to 70; and in 1794 to 108. Since the police-act was passed, the number of lamps has been greatly increased. There were in 1811, not fewer than 700 lamps throughout the town. In the present year, they amount to about 800; and more are to be added soon.

Another reservoir, containing water from the lower source, has been erected in St. Nicholas-Street since

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1821. It cost upward of £900; and contains about 350 hogsheads.

*New-Street Trustees.*

These consist of the magistrates and council, the members of parliament for the city and county, the principal of Marischal-College, the president of the society of advocates, the president of the society of shipmasters, and the convener of the trades, all for the time being. John Smith, Esq. architect, is engineer.

In the year 1796, a plan delivered by Mr. Charles Abercrombie, a surveyor of eminence, for opening a street from the west end of Castle-Street, through St. Catharine's hill, and over the Denburn, by means of a bridge, was laid before a general meeting of the trustees of the turnpike-roads of the county. The scheme was recommended by the meeting to the consideration of the magistrates; but they were averse from entering on an undertaking that appeared to them likely to be attended with great expense. In the beginning of the year 1799, however, the council acquiesced in the adoption of Mr. Abercrombie's plan, provided it should meet the approbation and concurrence of the citizens. In pursuance of this acquiescence, the provost introduced the subject to a general meeting of the inhabitants, which had been called by the commissioners of police, for the purpose of determining upon the expediency of augmenting the rate of assessment. The meeting approved the plan, and nominated a numerous committee, who should take into their consideration, "what roads and streets it might be requisite to alter

or enlarge, and what new ones it might be proper to open." They were also advised to take into their consideration plans, and estimates of the expense. The committee reported on the 1st July, that it was their opinion, "that two new streets, one from the south, and another from the north, should be opened according to Mr. Abercrombie's plan." The same committee gave in another report on the 17th September, stating, that they were "satisfied that the undertaking would ultimately answer its own purposes, and reimburse the advances" that should be required. "They were of opinion, that the most proper mode of raising the money would be, for the council to interpose the credit of the community : and that it should be recommended to that body to do so, under the authority of an act of parliament." A draught of the bill was presented with the report. In compliance with a request of the meeting, the whole proceedings were reported to the council, by the provost, on the 18th, and met their approbation. An act was passed on the 4th April 1800, empowering the trustees to open two streets, as above-mentioned, and to purchase from the proprietors the houses and lands in the line of the direction of these streets or avenues. The proprietors of such houses had previously given estimates of the price for which they would sell their property, but when the trustees had proceeded to act according to the provisions of the bill, many of the proprietors demanded higher prices than had previously been understood.

Contrasting Aberdeen *now* with what it presented to the eye of the stranger 25 years ago, an estimate may be formed of the advantages resulting from the labours



of the trustees. At that period, the access to the city was by dirty, narrow, and dangerous passages. *Now* the very spacious and elegant entrances, both from the north and south, call forth the admiration of every stranger; while the health, the comfort, and the convenience, of the inhabitants have been greatly promoted.

The streets that have been formed under their direction are as follow *viz.* Union-Street, leading to the bridge of Dee, and which passes over Putachieside, and Correction-wynd on stone arches, and over the Denburn on the elegant bridge called Union-bridge, already described; being 70 feet broad: and King-Street, 60 feet broad, which was opened from the north of Castle-Street, in order to form a communication with the Peterhead and Ellon road.

Another street, named St. Nicholas-Street, was afterward opened from the north of Union-Street, leading through Tannery-Street, and crossing the Nether and Upperkirk-gates, thus affording a direct passage to the Banff and Huntly-Roads. In short, the improvements that have been effected, have proved advantageous to the public, to private individuals, and to societies, and promoted the comfort of the inhabitants, and elegance of the city; but at an expense which has *unfortunately* proved injurious to the treasury of the town.

#### *Harbour-Trustees.*

The harbour-trustees consist of the magistrates and council. Mr. J. Holmes is superintendent of the harbour-works and engineer.

In ancient times, the only piece of artificial work in

the harbour, was that part of the old quay known by the name of the Quay-head, opposite to the weigh-house. The approach to it was by the Shiprow and Shore-brae. At that time, the harbour was nothing else than a basin, which spread from the sloping ground on the south side of Castle-Street to the island in the middle of the river, called the Inches. But the magistrates, in the year 1623, extended the quay from the weigh-house to Footdee; thus cutting off a considerable part of the basin, afterward known by the name of the Shore-lands, and now occupied by Virginia-Street, James-Street, &c. About the year 1755, the magistrates built the Pocra-pier, long known by the name of the new pier, situated near the building anciently used as the block-house. For ages, a bar was formed at the mouth of the harbour, consisting of sand and gravel, supposed to have been carried along the north coast by north-east winds, which gave the citizens perpetual trouble in removing it, that vessels might have free passage. About the year 1770, improvements relative to this constant impediment to shipping, were projected by the celebrated Mr. Smeaton. He advised that a quay should be erected on the north side of the harbour, which, while it should confine the river within narrow bounds, would tend to remove the sand-bank which had accumulated. Accordingly, an act of parliament was obtained in the year 1773, authorising the magistrates and council to execute the works which had been projected, and impose certain additional duties upon shipping, for defraying the expense of erection. On Monday the 5th June 1775, the foundation-stone of the north pier was laid at the Sandness

with masonic honours, in presence of the magistrates and a numerous concourse of people. The quay was built in the course of six years, at an expense of £18,000 sterling. It extends 1200 feet eastward, convex towards the south. On the west, it is 20 feet broad at the base, 12 feet at the top, and 16 feet high from the foundation ; but on the east it is 36 feet at the base, 24 feet at the top, and 30 feet in height, the increase of dimensions being gradual from the west to the east end. In the year 1795, another act was passed, " to continue the term, and alter and enlarge the powers, of the former act." A third act was granted 18th May 1810, empowering the magistrates and council to construct wet and graving docks, and to extend the north *pier* farther eastward, according to Mr. Smeaton's original design. They were also authorised to borrow a large sum of money, but that sum at any one time was not to exceed £140,000, and to exact on all goods and merchandise loaded or unloaded at the port of Aberdeen, 3*d* per barrel-bulk from burgesses, and 4*d* from all others. The accounts must, by the same act, be submitted at Michaelmas, yearly, to be audited and compared with the vouchers, by a committee of seven persons, consisting of the sheriff-depute, the convener of the county, the president of the society of advocates, the president of the society of ship-masters, the president of the police-board, and two burgesses of guild. This undertaking, when first agitated, excited much discussion, and the bill also was keenly opposed by a numerous and respectable body of the citizens. These proposed that the management of the funds should be vested in the hands of commissioners, of

whom *two-thirds* should be burgesses, and one-third members of the town-council, but the act passed agreeable to the wishes of the magistrates.

The improvements proposed to be executed under the new act, were projected by Mr. Telford, and approved by Mr. Jessop, two eminent engineers.

The north pier has since been extended about 900 feet, farther seaward. A breakwater from the southern shore, extending about 800 feet, for the purpose of narrowing the channel, and protecting the entrance from the south-easterly storms, has been also constructed. At Point-law, and several other places adjoining to the navigation-channel, capstan-towers have been erected for the convenience of the shipping, and the foundation has been laid, and part of the wall built, for changing the channel of the river Dee. In the interior of the harbour a wharf-wall, called Waterloo-Quay, extending nearly 900 feet, has been built on the east side of what is called Footdee-burn. It is so constructed, as to form part of the general plan of converting the harbour into a wet dock; and gives excellent birthage to the larger class of shipping. Considerable progress has been made in deepening the harbour, by means of a dredging machine, worked by an engine of eight horses' power, which is kept constantly employed. By this means, the shipping are supplied with ballast at a reasonable rate, and what is not required, is deposited on the Inches, where a large space of ground has already been made up on which wood-yards, ship-building-slips, &c. &c. are proposed to be constructed. To facilitate this plan, a bridge has also been erected at the Shore-brae, across which the stuff taken from the foun-

dations of houses in the city is conveyed; by which means, the trustees get this part of the Inches made up free of expense.

A considerable extent of property has been purchased by the trustees in Footdee, for the purpose of feuing off, agreeably to a general plan in connection with the Treasury-property, extending toward the links. In carrying on these works, money has been borrowed to a great amount, but the revenue produces upon an average from £6000 to £7000 sterling, per annum.

It may be proper to mention, that the improvements connected with the harbour, were carried on under the superintendence of John Gibb, Esq. engineer, who not only bestowed every attention on their execution, according to Mr. Telford's plan and instructions, but accelerated their progress by every means in his power.

These are the fruits of the labours of the trustees appointed under the new act. It is much to be regretted, that there exists a difference of opinion regarding their utility. Unquestionably, the harbour required improvement; but whether this has been effected to any great extent, does not yet appear to be fully determined. Some affirm, that the difficulty of taking the harbour with certain winds, is far greater than formerly; others, that it is not. *That* which is of greatest importance—the depth of water on the bar, some contend is increased, others, that it is diminished. We can only state facts; and from the calculations of Mr. Innes our town's-man, we are authorised to say, that on the bar of Aberdeen, the medium-spring-tides are 18 feet, and the medium-neap-tides 14 feet.

*Bridewell-Commissioners.*

These are appointed by act of parliament, and consist of the provost, sheriff-depute of Aberdeenshire, convener of the county, and convener of the incorporations, by virtue of their offices; four gentlemen named by the county, and four by the city.

The management of Bridewell is conducted by a governor, appointed by the commissioners. These inspect the prisoners every month, and redress their complaints, if any, with regard to their treatment by the governor. Visiting justices also are appointed by the quarter-sessions.

The prisoners are properly clothed and well fed. They have porridge for breakfast, bread and milk for supper, and soup, containing oatmeal and garden stuff, for dinner; except on one day of the week, when they are allowed broth with beef in it. In case of unruly conduct in the prison, they are punished by being placed for a certain number of hours in a perfectly dark cell. They are employed in weaving, winding warps and wefts, picking oakum, preparing hair and wool for upholsterers, and making sundry articles for domestic use. If any prisoners earn more than the cost of his maintenance, he has credit for the surplus in account, half of which is given to him when he leaves the house, and the other half six months after, on producing a certificate of good behaviour. The total cost for food during the year ending on the first Monday of September 1821, was £288 : 10s : 4d. or 2s. 7½d. a-head weekly. Their earnings for the same period were £248 : 18s : 9d., or 2s. 3¼d. a-head weekly. The earnings for the period above-mentioned have been less

than formerly, owing principally to the low rate of wages, and the difficulty of procuring employment. The earnings during 1820 amounted to £359 : 3s : 10½d, or 2s. 11d. a-head per week.

The following is a statement of commitments, made since the opening of the institution, 2d October, 1809.

	From the Town.	From the County.	Total.	Average Number at one time.
To the 1st. Monday of Sept. 1810,	40	7	47	9
1811,	36	16	52	12
1812,	31	10	41	9
1813,	46	11	57	11
1814,	27	14	41	11
1815,	44	27	71	21
1816,	72	15	87	34
1817,	76	26	102	34
1818,	76	24	100	32
1819,	94	23	117	37
1820,	89	30	119	47
1821,	101	39	140	42
	732	242	974	

The average-recommitments are as 1 to 5 ; but for 1821, nearly as 1 to 3. Mr. James Watson is governor. " Scarcely any thing indeed seems wanted," says Mr. Gurney in his Notes on the Prisons of Scotland, " to render this institution a school of reform, but more religious instruction—more of that kind care which a few benevolent and religious persons, if permitted to visit them daily, might easily extend over these prisoners individually."

*New Court-House and Jail-Commissioners.*

These consist of four gentlemen nominated by the county, and four by the city—the Bridewell-commissioners, and the members of parliament for the county and district of boroughs, *ex officio*. Their powers are defined by an act of parliament, authorising the erection of a new court-house and jail, at the expense of the town and county, the funds being raised by assessment. The elegant court-house, described in another part of this work, has been erected, and the building of the new jail is intended to be commenced very soon. It is certainly very much to be desired, that, in the new prison, the classification of the prisoners should be particularly attended to; and likewise that the most liberal permission should be given to pious and benevolent individuals desirous of using their daily efforts towards the reformation of the wretched inmates of the prison-house. Crimes are evidently on the increase, and every means ought to be adopted, not only for their prevention by punishment, but for the reformation of offenders.

It is chiefly to remissness regarding the latter, that the frequency of crime may be attributed, especially among juvenile offenders.

In the year 1761, there was no business of any kind before the judges of the circuit-court, in the months of May and September, nor any culprit in jail at these terms!!!



## VII.

## COURTS OF JUDICATURE.

*The Circuit-Court of Justiciary.*

IN the months of April and September, two of the lords commissioners of justiciary, or one of them and the lord justice clerk, hold the assizes at Aberdeen—comprehending the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine. The judges, on their approach to the town, are received by the magistrates with great ceremony. The professors in both colleges wait on them after their arrival. One of the judges presides in the court of trial by jury in civil cases—20 of the assize are summoned from Aberdeen, 15 from Banff, and 10 from Kincardine.

*Sheriff-Court.*

The sheriff officiates in a ministerial capacity under the crown. He receives the royal revenues, and pays them into the exchequer. He forms a list of 45 persons, out of whom are selected by the proper officer at Edinburgh 20, who are to sit upon the trials at Aberdeen. He also establishes, by the assistance of a jury, consisting of 15 persons, summoned for the purpose, the rates which are paid for corn that ought to be delivered to the established clergy, as their stipends, within the county. He has also ample civil as well as criminal jurisdiction, as in cases of theft and petty

delinquencies. The office was hereditary in the family of the Duke of Gordon from 1452 till 1629, when the Marquis of Huntly was induced to surrender it into the hands of Charles I. on a condition which was never fulfilled. The office is now held for life, by a judge called the sheriff-depute, who must have been a member of the faculty of advocates, for at least three years. He receives his appointment from the crown. A substitute named by the sheriff-depute, and approved by the crown, has the most laborious part of the duty to perform. The present sheriff-depute is Alexander Moir, Esq. of Scotstown, whose salary is £400 per annum, and the sheriffs-substitute are Alexander Daune, LL. D. and William Kennedy, Esq. Advocate. The office of sheriff-clerk is in the gift of the crown. The present clerk is James Gordon, Esq. of Craig, who serves by deputy. There is no salary, but the emoluments are conjectured to be upward of £500 per annum.

#### *Commissary-Court.*

This was the ancient consistorial court of the diocese of Aberdeen. It extends over the whole county of Aberdeen, except 5 parishes, and comprehends 12 parishes in the county of Banff, and 3 in the county of Kincardine. In this court are determined matters of a testamentary nature. In it are also decided actions of scandal, and debts not exceeding £40 Scots. In the year 1721, all the records of this court were destroyed by an accidental fire. Arthur Dingwall Fordyce of Culsh, LL. D. is the present commissary. The registered papers and records of this court are deposited

in the record-office, for security against fire. The clerk of court is Charles Gordon, Esq. advocate. Alexander Shirrefs and David Hutcheon, Esqs. are public prosecutors.

### *Justice of Peace Court.*

The powers of this court are extensive. The court is authorized to judge small cases of a civil nature, when the debt or damage does not exceed in value £5 sterling. The justices of peace for the county are appointed by a general commission issued at the expense of parliament, generally once in every six or eight years. Francis Gordon, Esq. advocate, is clerk of the peace. He is remunerated by perquisites. John Watson, Esq. is procurator-fiscal.

### *Criminal Court of the Magistrates.*

“By the charter of King Charles I. in the year 1638, the provost of Aberdeen for the time being is ordained high-sheriff and coroner, and the baillies his deputy-sheriffs and coroners within the town and liberties.” Their other powers are very ample. They exercised their powers but in three instances during the last century, one in 1738, and two in 1787. The ordinary jurisdiction of the magistrates is exercised by the baillies in what is called the

### *Baillie-Court.*

The proceedings of this court commenced in 1398. Generally, all the magistrates attended, the provost being presiding judge. For several centuries, a jury of the citizens were summoned for the purpose of

deciding questions both of a civil and criminal nature. About the end of the 18th century, an act of the town-council devolved the powers of this court on the four baillies, who have since that period sat successively, for three months each. They are attended by a legal assessor. The decisions of this court in ancient times, were subject to the review only of the chamberlain of Scotland, and his court of four boroughs.

#### *Dean of Guild-Court.*

The powers of jurisdiction exercised by this court were never very extensive. At present, the office of dean of guild is merely ministerial. By virtue of a charter granted to the town by Charles I. in 1638, the magistrates delegate to the dean of guild the power of marking and stamping all firlots, pecks, pound-weights, &c. The dean of guild is custodier of the standard-weights and measures of the town and county.

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### VIII.

#### GOVERNMENT REVENUE-OFFICES.

##### *Post-Office.*

A POST-OFFICE was established in Aberdeen by the magistrates, about the end of the 16th century. The towns which were visited by the post were Edinburgh and other places of royal residence. In 1667, a regular post was appointed to run twice a-week between Aber-

deen and Edinburgh. The magistrates, however, were deprived of the office by government in 1674, when it was put under the direction of the post-master-general of Scotland. In 1755, a post was established to run thrice a-week between Aberdeen and Inverness. In 1763, the London mail arrived in Aberdeen on the sixth day. In the year 1787, the revenue of the office was less than £2000, but of late years, it has been four times that sum.

By an arrangement made in the present year, the mail arrives from the south, at 4 o'clock P. M. in 16 hours from Edinburgh, and 68 hours from London. It is again despatched at half past 8 o'clock, P. M. and arrives in Edinburgh 48 minutes past 12 o'clock, P. M. of the following day.

The mail for the north is despatched from Aberdeen at 5 o'clock, P. M. and reaches Inverness by way of Banff, at 46 minutes past 7 o'clock of the following morning. The Inverness mail, by the same route, arrives in Aberdeen 44 minutes past 7 o'clock, P. M.

#### *Custom-House.*

This institution was established in Aberdeen immediately after the Union. The limits fixed in 1710 were Tod-head, on the south, and the harbour of Cullen, on the north. In 1801, a custom-house was established at Banff, which comprehended the ports and creeks between Cullen and Fraserburgh. The Aberdeen establishment consists of a collector, comptroller, land-surveyor, tide-surveyor, comptroller of warehouse, weigher, warehouse-keeper, searcher, 3 clerks, 4 land waiters, 28 tidesmen; and 6 boatmen.

*Excise-Office.*

There are five districts, including Inverury, Peterhead, and Stonehaven, with adjacent parts. There are 5 supervisors, and 45 officers, beside 2 officers, 2 assistants, and a tides-man, in the Permit-office, Nether-kirkgate. Gray Campbell, Esq. is collector. The office is kept in Belmont-Street.

*Linen-Stamp-Office.*

The Linen-Stamp-Office is in Windmill-brae. James and Andrew Milne are stamp-masters.

*Offices for Cess and Assessed Taxes.*

The office for the cess or land-tax of the borough is in a house adjoining to the new court-house. The land-tax charged on the borough is £526:10s. It is proportioned upon the rents of houses within the town, lands and salmon-fishings within the liberties, and also upon merchant-trade, and casual profits, by a certain number of the citizens, who go under the title of the board of taxers, and are nominated annually by the council. Eleven of the board, at present, are of the magistrates and council. James Grant, Esq. advocate, is collector.

Harry and Henry Lumsden, Esqs. advocates, are collectors of cess for the county. The office is held in Union-Terrace.

*Stamp-Office.*

Alexander Brown, Esq. bookseller, is distributor of stamps. Alexander Shirrefs, Esq. advocate, is factor for the solicitor of stamp-duties for Aberdeen, Banff,

and Kincardine-shires. The stamp-office is in the shop of Alexander Brown and Co. Booksellers, Broad-Street.

As a proof of the great extent of revenue derived from this source, we can state upon the best authority, that the office of distributor has for many years been worth from £1200 to £1500 sterling, per annum.

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## IX.

### PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS.

#### *Aberdeen Mason-Lodge.*

FREE-MASONRY is the name of an ancient and respectable institution, containing individuals of all ranks and countries, and binding them to acts of mutual benevolence, by initiation into certain mysterious rites, and by the communication of signs and words, by means of which, the members of the institution are capable of recognising each other. There is a striking resemblance between the institution of free-masonry, and the Eleusinian and Dionysian mysteries, as well as the more recent institutions of the Essenes, the Kasideans, and the Pythagoreans. The earliest appearance of free-masonry in modern times, was under the form of a travelling association of Italian, Greek, French, and Flemish artists, who were denominated free-masons, and who went about erecting churches and cathedrals in the Gothic style. The members lived in a camp of huts. They were under a surveyor, who directed the

establishment; and every tenth man was a warden, and overlooked those under his charge. By means of this travelling association, the mysteries of masonry, it would seem, were introduced into Kilwinning in Scotland, and York in England, at a very early period. Henry IV. became a very keen mason, and drew up a paper in his own hand-writing containing questions and answers respecting the nature and tendency of free-masonry. Free-masonry was also patronised in Scotland by King James I.

The Grand Lodge of England was instituted in 1717, that of Ireland, in 1780, and that of Scotland, about 1736. Sweden and Denmark are indebted to Scotland for its introduction, the latter, in the year 1743, and the former, in 1754.

A lodge of free-masons appears to have been instituted in Aberdeen as early as 1541. Their assemblies were held near the Girdleness, in the parish of Nigg. In 1670, certain rules and regulations were established, and a fund instituted for the relief of their indigent brethren, widows, and orphans. After this time, they held their meetings in their lodge, which they had built in Futtie's Myre, on the east side of the town. In 1755, they erected their present lodge contiguous to the jail. In 1743, their ancient rights and privileges were confirmed by a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The members of this lodge consist of many gentlemen of the town and county, and of operative masons.

There are many other masonic lodges in Aberdeen, possessing property to a great amount. The rules and regulations of all these societies have been sanctioned by the quarter-sessions of the peace.



*The Honourable the Club, or County-Club.*

This club was instituted in 1718, for the purpose of promoting social intercourse among its members. It is composed of noblemen and gentlemen of the county, and many respectable citizens of Aberdeen. Members are admitted by ballot at the quarterly meetings. The present number is about 114. After transacting the ordinary business, the members dine together. The contributions are appropriated to charitable purposes. The Infirmary and Lunatic-Asylum have been peculiar objects of their bounty. The late Thomas Bannerman, Esq. was secretary upward of 40 years. Thomas Burnett, Esq., advocate, is the present secretary.

*Golf-Club.*

In the year 1780, a society was instituted for the encouragement of the game of golf; but it was dissolved in the course of a few years. In 1815, a new association was formed, under the designation of the *Aberdeen Golf-Club*. Candidates are admitted by ballot at the quarterly meetings.

*The United Meeting of the Counties of Aberdeen, Forfar, Banff, and Kincardine.*

About the year 1790, a club was formed under the designation of the Northern Shooting-Club, consisting solely of the noblemen and gentlemen of the county of Aberdeen. They continued to hold an annual meeting till the year 1814, when the club was finally dissolved. Soon after, several gentlemen proposed that another meeting should be established, but on a footing entirely different from the former, and which should consist of

the noblemen and gentlemen of the four counties of Aberdeen, Forfar, Banff, and Kincardine, under the name of the United Meeting of these four counties. The chief object intended by the establishment of this association was, that an annual meeting might be held in Aberdeen, in consequence of which, would be promoted the more immediate intercourse of the most respectable families in those opulent counties. The meeting having been established for some years, experience has proved that the original design has been accomplished, and in such a degree as far exceeds the highest expectations of its projectors. We may safely venture to say, that Scotland does not produce such an assemblage of nobility and gentry, nor does it contain a similar association, the management of whose affairs is more regularly conducted. Separate from the respectability attached to the united assembly of the nobility and gentry in four such extensive counties, this meeting, in consequence of the attraction which it exercises on many of the noble and other families of the neighbouring counties, and other parts of the kingdom, may justly claim to itself the honour of constituting Aberdeen on such occasions, not only the metropolis of the north, but of Scotland itself.

The meeting generally continues for four days in the month of October, on each of which, the amusement of horse-racing is carried on with spirit. The sums of money run for in different days occasionally exceed 800 guineas! The stakes are made up chiefly by the liberality of the noblemen and gentlemen connected with the counties, as also by liberal donations from the lord-lieutenant, and the representatives of the counties

in parliament. The ladies attending the meeting are ample contributors. The citizens of Aberdeen also contribute liberally to the sports of the week.

The funds of the meeting destined for the defraying of its expenses, are considerable, being raised by an annual contribution from members, of whom there are not fewer than 150, all admitted by ballot. A preses chosen annually, with two members from each county as stewards, and the lord provost of Aberdeen, order, regulate, and direct the whole amusements for the week. This committee are assisted by the honourable colonel John Ramsay, who takes upon himself the arduous duties of secretary to the meeting.

There are ordinaries and balls held on each of the four days, at which every thing is conducted in the highest style of order, comfort, and magnificence.

The members of the meeting having found that the accommodation afforded in the two principal hotels, was not sufficiently commodious for the large assemblage which attended the ordinaries and the balls; proposed, nearly three years ago, that a voluntary subscription should be set on foot, for the erection of a suite of public rooms, on a scale of elegance and extent suitable to the numerous noble and respectable families that attend the meetings, and having received the approbation and acquiescence of many of the other gentlemen of the four counties, and also of the opulent and respectable inhabitants, and public bodies, in the city of Aberdeen, a subscription was immediately opened, which, in the course of a very few months, exceeded the sum of £11,000. The sum subscribed has since considerably increased.

A committee of subscribers, consisting of His Grace the Duke of Gordon, Honourable Col. Ramsay, Mr. Gordon of Hallhead, Mr. Skene of Skene, Mr. Gordon of Cluny, Lieutenant-General Burnett, and Col. Fraser of Castle-Fraser, were named for fixing on the situation and plans of the building. Mr. Thomas Burnett received the appointment of secretary. To these were added Gavin Hadden, Esq. Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Lieutenant-General J. Gordon Cumming Skene, Mr. Garioch, Mr. Bannerman, Mr. D. Davidson, and Mr. William Moir. The committee has fully answered the purposes of its appointment, and the building has been finished as described in this work, under the head of Public Buildings, in a manner highly creditable to all concerned.

In addition to the above accommodation, very handsome and commodious stands have been obtained by a private subscription among the members, and are, in the week of the races, erected on the course for the accommodation of the ladies and gentlemen present.

We are happy to be able to state, that while the company are thus enjoying the luxuries and pleasures which a transient world affords, they are not unmindful of many of their fellow-mortals who are pinched by the griping hand of poverty, are smarting under acute and lingering diseases, or are shut out from society by the worst of all maladies—a deranged state of intellect.

In concluding this account of the united meeting of the four contiguous counties, we deem it proper to state, that it seems to be very generally understood, that, it was by the exertions of the Honourable Colonel Ram-

say, the meeting was first instituted, and has since been carried on with that spirit which marks its annual proceedings. We believe he was also the original proposer of the building of the public rooms; and had it not been for his unwearied exertions, as convener of the committee of management, such an arduous undertaking never could have been carried through with the rapidity which, from the first, has marked their progress.

*Aberdeenshire Agricultural Association.*

This society was formed in the year 1817. The object and attention of the association are, to encourage the rearing, fattening, &c. of farm-stock, and the introduction of the best breeds of horses for agricultural and other purposes, by granting premiums for the best specimens exhibited at shows, which are held in the different districts of the county; to promote the attention and reward the industry of tenants, farm-servants, labourers, and artificers; to obtain the earliest and best information of all discoveries and improvements connected with agriculture, and to disseminate the same throughout the county; and, in general, to advance by every means in the power of the association the agricultural interests of Aberdeenshire. An annual subscription of one guinea for five years, entitles a person to be a member of the association.

*Northern United Service-Club.*

This club was formed in 1819. Its principal object is, to effect an occasional intercourse of officers of all ranks of the navy and army who live in and about

Aberdeen. Meetings are held quarterly in one of the inns, when candidates are admitted. Members that are inclined, dine together on such occasions. There are about 100 members.

*Aberdeen Highland Society.*

The objects of this society are the same with those of the parent-society in London, instituted in 1778. His majesty the king is *chief* of both societies.

On his return from the metropolis in 1820, Dr. Walker, a member of the parent-society, was solicited by several young Highlanders, to use his endeavours for the establishment of a Gaelic society in Aberdeen. Consequently, on application being made to the London society, a charter was granted, directed to the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, John Harding Walker, M. D. and Ewen M'Lauchlan, A. M.; and the Aberdeen society formed on the 26th October, 1820, consisting of about 12 members. The number, at present, is between 60 and 70. From want of funds, few of the objects of the society have as yet been effected, except the appearing of the members in the full costume of the Gael at their public meetings, and the granting of a bursary to the best Gaelic scholar, which took place this year. The Marquis of Huntly is president.

## X

## RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

SINCE the utmost impartiality has been preserved throughout the work, we wish it to be observed, that in the arrangement of the articles contained in this chapter, we have thought it proper scrupulously to follow the order of time in which the respective denominations have arisen.

*Roman Catholics.*

There can be no doubt in the minds of such Protestants as are acquainted with ecclesiastical history, that Christianity in its primitive form was established in Scotland long before the bishop of Rome had assumed superiority over all other bishops, and declared himself to be Peter's successor, and Christ's vicar on earth. The pope was not long in sending his emissaries into Britain, who, in the end, brought the natives under the subjection of the Roman pontiff. An episcopal see was founded at Mortlach by Malcolm II., and removed to Aberdeen in 1136, while Nectanus was bishop.

In the course of time, various orders of religious bodies were instituted in the church of Rome, all auxiliary to the aggrandizing and domineering views of their spiritual head. The principal of these were, the Franciscan or Grey Friars, an order said to have been founded by St. Francis about the year 1198, and confirmed by Pope Innocent III.; the Trinity or Red Friars, established by Pope Innocent the III. in the

year 1200; the Dominican or Black and White Friars, founded about the year 1206, by St. Dominic, a Spaniard, and confirmed by Pope Honorius in the year 1210; the Carmelite or White Friars, who had their origin and name from mount Carmel in Syria; celebrated for being the residence of Elijah and Elisha the prophets, who, as they supposed, were their founders; and were formed into an order by Albertus, patriarch of Jerusalem, which order was confirmed by Pope Honorius about the year 1217. The Trinity Friars were introduced into Scotland by King William the Lion, for the purpose of instructing the people in religion. He established a branch of them in Aberdeen also, and sent thither, in the year 1211, two friars who had been recommended to him by Pope Innocent, and granted to them his palace and garden, in the south side of the town, for their convent. The Dominican Friars were established in Aberdeen by King Alexander the II. in the beginning of the 13th century, who bestowed on them his palace and garden, situated on the north side of School-hill, for a monastery and church which was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The Carmelite Friars were introduced into Aberdeen about the middle of the 13th century. King Robert Bruce and David II. granted them charters, giving and confirming donations to their order. The Franciscan or Grey Friars were established in the city about the middle of the 15th century. Richard Waus of Meny, burgess of Aberdeen, granted them, in 1469, the lands and property belonging to him, situated on the east side of Broad-Street, for their monastery.

Besides these religious orders, there were in Aber-



deen several hospitals under the direction of the Roman Catholics, viz. St Peter's Hospital situated in the Spital, which was founded by Matthew Kyninmund, bishop of Aberdeen, in the reign of King William the Lyon, and designed for the support of indigent and infirm persons: the Hospital of the Knights Templars, situated at the east end of Castle-Street: St. Thomas' Hospital, distinguished in modern times by the name of the Bead-house, situated near the east end of St. Nicholas' Church, which was founded by Mr. John Clatt, in 1459, and afterward solely appropriated to decayed brethren of guild, and the members of the corporations of artificers; from which arose that branch of the public funds of the town, distinguished by the name of the Guild-Brethren's Hospital; and the Bishop's Hospital, Old Aberdeen, founded by Bishop Dunbar in the year 1531.

The Snow-Church, Old Aberdeen, was founded by Bishop Elphinston, in consequence of a bull received from Pope Alexander VI. in 1497, and dedicated to *Maria ad nives*; which was designed for the devotional exercises of the parishioners.

We have already mentioned, that, in the years 1559 and 1560, the Roman Catholics were driven from their churches and monasteries, on the introduction of the reformed religion. Many of the members of those religious orders, having been rendered destitute, retired to the Netherlands, where they resided during the remainder of their days, trusting to the benevolence of the people of that country for a precarious subsistence. Such of the Catholics as remained, were obliged to consult privacy in the performance of their devotions; yet

notice is taken of them in the Presbytery-Register of Aberdeen in 1698, where it is recorded that "mass had been said in Count Leslie's house by his brother. There were then four priests in Aberdeen and a nunnery of six young women, and a school kept by two Papist women for young children." Again it is mentioned in 1700, that "there were in Aberdeen 80 Papists; the lairds Cairnfield, Hilton, and Kingoodie, and lady Wartel, the principal."

During a considerable part of the 18th century, the Catholics were obliged to meet in companies not exceeding 20 persons, for the celebration of the religious rites of their proscribed religion; the time of such meetings being in the dead silence of night. Long previously to 1793, when the severest of the penal laws against them were repealed, they had two places of worship—the *one* a decayed *garret* of a house situated in the middle of the Gallowgate, and the *other* a dark confined *cellar* in the Shiprow, opposite to the Shore-brae. In the year 1772, a large piece of ground situated at the east end of Castle-Street, now called Chapel-court, on which there stood some old houses, was purchased by them in the name of a Protestant gentleman, in whom they placed confidence; as they were by the penal laws incapacitated from possessing heritable property themselves. Here a house of moderate dimensions was soon erected, the ground floor of which was fitted up for a chapel. Their number increasing, it was found expedient to enlarge their place of worship. Accordingly, in 1803, the Rev. Charles Gordon, who has had the pastoral charge of the congregation since 1795, erected St. Peter's chapel, the

present building, on ground adjoining to the former house. The chapel is finished with great taste, and is capable of containing about 800 persons. The altar, sanctuary, and pulpit, are particularly neat. There are two large elegant cut crystal lamps suspended from the ceiling ; two superb hot-air stoves, and an organ justly admired for the sweetness and melodiousness of its tones.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Aberdeen was considered as an asylum for the poor Catholics, who were persecuted from place to place. A bishop and several priests had their occasional residence in our city.

Mr. Gordon, the present minister of this denomination, is zealous for its prosperity. He has established a school for the education of the children of Roman Catholics ; and, a few years ago, instituted a library for the use of his congregation, containing books on religious and other subjects, some of which are ancient and rare ; and in 1816, a friendly society denominated *Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Friendly Society in Aberdeen* : he is besides an active director in most of the Aberdeen institutions which have for their object the alleviation of human misery. In conclusion, we are happy to add, that many of this denomination in our city, are intelligent, respectable, and useful members of society.

### *Presbyterians.*

In the year 1560, Mr. Adam Heriot was appointed minister in Aberdeen by the General Assembly. He was originally a Friar of the Augustine order, and lived

in the abbey of St. Andrews. Being a man of great learning, and an eloquent preacher, he was, on his joining the *congregation* at Edinburgh, appointed to Aberdeen. He was highly esteemed for his humanity, probity, and general worth, by all ranks of the community. He continued in Aberdeen till his death, which happened in August 1574. The church-session of Aberdeen was constituted in November 1562, consisting of 14 lay elders, and 7 deacons, with the chief magistrate at their head, whose duty was, to enforce their decrees over unfortunate delinquents, by the exercise of his powers of jurisdiction. The elders and deacons were first named by the congregation assembled in the church, and on the following Sunday were confirmed in their offices for the ensuing year, their names being publicly proclaimed. The nomination took place annually about the month of October.

Mr. John Craig, who had been the colleague of Mr. John Knox for the space of nine years, succeeded Mr. Heriot, in the year 1575. He was originally a Dominican friar, and had received his education at the college of St. Andrews. Having in the course of his travels on the Continent declared his sentiments in an undisguised manner, he was carried to Rome, where he was tried before the tribunal of the Inquisition, and condemned to be burnt alive on the following day. But Providence ordered it otherwise. Pope Paul IV. died the same evening; and in the midst of certain tumults which happened on the occasion, the prison was broken open, and Mr. Craig effected his escape. After encountering many difficulties, he returned to Scotland, and was appointed minister of Holyrood-house, in the year

1561. He was afterward translated to Montrose, and, on the death of Mr. Heriot, to Aberdeen. During his ministry in Aberdeen, episcopacy was established in the Church of Scotland. David Cunningham was installed in St. Nicholas' Church, as bishop of Aberdeen, in November 1577, by Adamson, archbishop of St. Andrews. Mr. Craig assisted at his inauguration. Mr. Cunningham was the first protestant bishop of Aberdeen. There were nine in all. In the year 1641, episcopacy was abolished, and established again after the Restoration, but finally abolished at the epoch of the Revolution, in 1689. Yet it appears, that the ministers and session of Aberdeen, paid little or no regard to the law by which it had been annulled, and persevered, for several years after, in the exercise of their respective functions, under the authority of the bishop. This non-compliance, however, attracted the attention of the General Assembly, who deputed, in the year 1694, a committee of their number to repair to Aberdeen, for the purpose of new-modelling the church according to the presbyterian plan. The episcopal session was accordingly dismissed, by the authority of the magistrates; and 23 elders, four of whom were magistrates, and 16 deacons, were nominated as the presbyterian church-session of Aberdeen. The three officiating ministers, Drs. William Blair, George Garden, and Andrew Burnett, refusing to conform to the rules of the Church of Scotland, were obliged to resign their charge. Mr. Thomas Ramsay of Calder, was chosen minister.

Since the Reformation, 55 protestant ministers have officiated in St. Nicholas' Church; several of whom have been eminent for their learning or piety.

The General Assembly was held in Aberdeen in the years 1616 and 1640.

In the year 1741, Mr. Whitfield, the celebrated Calvinistic Methodist, visited Aberdeen in consequence of an invitation given by one of the town's ministers. Endeavours were used in a certain quarter, to prevent him from preaching in the church-yard; but the church was granted to him. The magistrates, who had heard him preach, sent for him next day, and apologizing for the public injury done him by the colleague of his clerical friend, presented him with the freedom of the city.

This, with other curious particulars, is mentioned by Southey in his *Life of Wesley*, which in no small degree tends to illustrate the character of the community 80 years ago.

In 1707, the stipend of the ministers was £1000 Scots, and a chaldron of coals. The present ministers have £200 sterling. Each of the four ministers deserves our award of commendation, but we cannot avoid recording, that one of them, in particular, takes a most active and liberal part in the various benevolent and religious institutions of our city.

About the year 1771, the Chapel of Ease in Gilcomston, parish of Old Machar, was opened for public worship, and Mr. Johnston, present minister of Monquhitter, was chosen pastor. He was succeeded by Mr. Gregory, now of Banchory. After his resignation, James Kidd, D. D. Professor of Oriental Languages in Marischal-college, was chosen minister. He is still their pastor, and preaches to the largest congregation in or about Aberdeen. He is the author of several

recondite works, and a most zealous minister. During his incumbency, a religious association for the spread of the gospel, sabbath-schools, prayer-meetings, and an extensive library, have been instituted.

The Gaelic congregation commenced in the year 1789, or 1790. A considerable number of persons all speaking the Gaelic language, and strict presbyterians, had resided in Aberdeen for several years. As they had been accustomed to receive religious instruction in that tongue, they were desirous of enjoying the same privilege in Aberdeen also. For this purpose, they formed an-association, and collected funds to accomplish their object. This association met with the countenance of some respectable individuals from the Highlands, and also of other persons resident in Aberdeen. Several of these the association made choice of to assist them as managers. The earliest of them were Mr. Colquhoun M'Gregor, merchant; Mr. J. Chalmers, printer; Mr. Patrick Robertson, leather-merchant; and Mr. John Ewen, jeweller. These gentlemen drew up a petition, and presented it to the magistrates and council, requesting the use of St. Mary's chapel, under the East-Church, as a temporary place of worship for these industrious and well disposed people. Their request was immediately granted, and with the sum of £26, the amount of the fund then in their possession, they furnished the chapel with a reading-desk and seats for the congregation. At this period, the public services consisted in reading a portion of Scripture, prayer, singing of psalms, and an occasional exhortation by some of the members. The Rev. Ronald Bain of Elgin afforded them no little assistance, who had occasionally preached

to them in Gaelic, so early as the year 1785, in the East-Church, on Sunday mornings.

In 1791, they found, that by a little enlargement of their collections, they might be enabled to employ a preacher ; and accordingly Mr. Kenneth Bain, the brother of Mr. Bain above-mentioned, was chosen their first minister. His stipend was fixed at £40, and ultimately at £50. Mr. Bain being removed to another charge he was succeeded by Mr. M'Kenzie.

In 1795 and 1796, the affairs of the congregation had so prospered by prudent management, that they feued a piece of ground adjoining to Belmont-Street, and built a handsome chapel, which enters from a public passage, hence called Gaelic-lane. Since that period, they have had several pastors, men respectable for their talents and worth, who have successively been presented to different livings in the Church of Scotland, To their late pastors the Rev. Mr. Grant and the Rev. Mr. Sage, they allowed an annual stipend of £150.

The ordinary service of the church is alternately given in Gaelic and English, the forenoon being devoted to the one, and the afternoon to the other.

About the year 1794, the congregation in Belmont-Street, under the pastoral care of Mr. John Bryce, was received into the bosom of the church. The congregation is at present very large.

In the year 1794 the Trinity-Chapel of Ease was erected, and Mr. Robert Doig, now one of the town's ministers, chosen pastor of the congregation. He was succeeded in 1813 by Mr. Kirkland, and he in 1816 by Mr. John Murray, the present pastor of the congregation.



In 1821 another congregation was formed in connexion with the Established church. They meet in Drum's aisle, and have Mr. Sim for their minister. We understand that this congregation has been occasioned by a division which took place in the old Relief-church, Shiprow, on the appointment of Mr. Patrick Ross. A chapel for their accommodation is in the course of being built in the Shiprow.

### *Episcopalians.*

In consequence of the deposition of the Episcopal ministers in the year 1694, a separation of many of the people took place. Those who separated adhered to their former teachers. In 1712 and 1720 acts were passed, which required Episcopalians to comply with certain oaths ; some of the Episcopalians in Aberdeen acceded, and received a clergyman ordained by an English bishop, who was to administer to them the ordinances of religion according to the forms of the Church of England. These erected a chapel in the west side of the Gallowgate, in the year 1721, in addition to the Trinity Chapel which they had long occupied, and appointed two clergymen to perform divine service in it ; the three ministers taking the service of the two chapels in succession. They have resisted every attempt to bring them under the jurisdiction of Scotch bishops. They may indeed be said to be Episcopal Independents. Their ministers are ordained by an English bishop, but the rite of confirmation is entirely laid aside, and they have virtually no bishop.

A few years before Trinity Chapel had been taken down to make way for the chapel now belonging to the

establishment, Mr. Blake, who had for some time officiated in it as sole minister, got a more commodious place erected for him in the Netherkirkgate, called St. James' Chapel, where he continued till his death. He was succeeded by a person who soon lost the congregation ; all his hearers, except a very few who joined the Scotch Episcopalians, having gone to St. Paul's. The chapel was soon after sold, and pulled down, being in the line of St. Nicholas-Street.

The present ministers of St. Paul's Chapel are, the Rev. James Cordiner, and the Rev. William Wilkinson.

Other Episcopalians declined to subject themselves to the oaths which had been prescribed by law, and were permitted peaceably to attend their meeting-houses, until the year 1746, when persons were prohibited from attending such places of worship under severe penalties. At length, however, the oppressive laws were rescinded, and the Scotch Episcopalians began to flourish. From the time of their separation from the church of Scotland, there were generally two meeting-houses in the town, one of which was for a long time under the pastoral charge of Bishop Gerard, successor in office to Bishop William Dunbar, who was minister of the parish of Cruden previous to the Revolution. Bishop Gerard was succeeded by Mr. Aitken, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Annand, and by Mr. Cheyne the present minister of St. John's Chapel. The other of these meeting-houses, which was situated in the Guestrow, was for a long time under the pastoral care of Mr. William Smith, a descendant of the original ministers of the Episcopal church. He was succeeded on his death, which happened in 1774, by the late Bishop John

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Skinner, who became *primus* of the Scotch Episcopal church. In the year 1776, Bishop Skinner erected a house in Long Acre, the upper part of which was appropriated for a chapel. In 1795, this building was taken down, and a spacious chapel built on the site of the former, which was dedicated to St. Andrew. The congregation still increasing in number and respectability, it was deemed proper to raise the present elegant fabric in King-Street, already described in another part of this work. Although the bishop saw the foundation-stone laid, he did not live to see the building finished. He died greatly esteemed by his people, and was certainly one of the most active clergymen whom the Scotch Episcopal church has had since the Revolution. A marble statue, executed by Flaxman, and considered an excellent likeness, has, since his death, been erected in St. Andrew's Chapel, and the expense defrayed by private subscription.

His son William Skinner, D. D. is his successor both as minister and bishop, and is an active member of several benevolent institutions. Mr. William Browning is his assistant.

### *Quakers.*

The society of Friends, or the people called Quakers, sprung up about the middle of the 17th century, principally by the instrumentality of one George Fox, who, after travelling throughout several counties of England, and conversing with many persons both serious and profane, upon subjects connected with vital godliness, boldly gave his testimony against the religion of the times, calling the church of Nottingham "the steeple-

house and an idol-temple." As might have been expected, the first-fruits of his labours were, the conviction of some, and the imprisonment of himself in a noisome jail.

Soon after this, Fox's doctrine gained considerable ground in England, and was ably preached and defended by many assistants, whose zeal led them to travel into many parts of the world, manifesting, under all circumstances, such meekness and patience as were highly calculated to subserve the cause which they had espoused. Christopher Fell and two others had visited Scotland at an early period. In the year 1654, Miles Hallhead and James Lancaster, after having visited Ireland, proceeded to Scotland, where they found a church of their persuasion, that had been planted by Fell and his companions. One Alexander Hamilton, however, had formed a meeting according to Fox's principles at Drumbowry, and another at Heads, a year before any Quakers had appeared in Scotland. In Sewel's history of the Quakers, it is recorded, that it was not long after the introduction of Quakerism into Scotland, that "meetings were settled at Garshore, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen." It does not appear, however, that much notice had been taken of this new sect in Aberdeen, till the year 1663, as has already been noticed in another part of this work. George Keith is there exhibited as a leading character among the Quakers. Sewel writes of him, that "he was a witty person, and esteemed very learned; and at the university obtained the degree of Master of Arts. He often also gave proofs of a high soaring knowledge, and was very ready to show from philosophy, the

reasons and causes of many things in the creation." In 1674, we find George Keith one of four Quakers who engaged in a public disputation with several Baptist ministers in a Baptist meeting-house in London. In 1675, a disputation was held by him and Robert Barclay with several students of divinity in Aberdeen; four of whom it seems were convinced. In 1677, he travelled with William Penn and Robert Barclay into Holland, preaching the doctrine of his party. While in Pennsylvania, in the year 1692, he adopted the sentiments of Francis Mercurius, baron of Helmens, concerning the transmigration of souls. This circumstance paved the way for his apostasy from Quakerism. On his return to England in 1693, he preached in Turner's Hall, and ingratiating himself with the Episcopalians, conformed to the ceremonies of the church of England, and was at last ordained a preacher. In the year 1702, he went by an order of the bishops to New England, New York, Pennsylvania, &c. with the expectation that he should reclaim many of the Quakers; but in this he was disappointed. He afterward returned to England, and got a living in the parish of Edburton in Sussex, worth about £120 a year. The Episcopalians thought that Keith should suppress the doctrine of the Quakers, but his endeavours proved ineffectual.

Connected with the history of the Quakers in Aberdeen, stands another noted character, the celebrated Robert Barclay of Ury; concerning whom some notice ought to be given in this department of our work. Robert Barclay, generally known by the title of the Apologist, was the eldest son of Colonel David Barclay, descended, through a long line of ancestry, from

Theobald de Berkely, who lived in the time of David I., and of Catharine Gordon from the house of the Dukes of Gordon. He was born on the 28th December 1648, at Gordonston, in Morayshire, the seat of his maternal grandfather. After having been educated in the best schools in Scotland, he was sent to Paris, where he studied under his uncle, then rector of the Scots' College, and gave early presages of great genius; acquiring much proficiency in all the learned sciences, and elegant accomplishments of the times. During his absence, his father had received the doctrine of the Quakers; and he continued to ornament the cause which he had adopted with a consistent and Christian behaviour. After having visited his friends of several religious persuasions, Robert was, from the force of conviction, and the influence of his father's unblamable conduct, induced to join himself to the society of Friends. About the year 1670, he first appeared as an author, by a work entitled, *Truth cleared of Calumnies*, which was an answer to *A Dialogue between a Quaker and a stable Christian*, written by William Mitchell, minister of St. Clement's chapel, Footdee. Mitchell replied to *Truth cleared of Calumnies*, and our author rejoined in a work entitled, *William Mitchell Unmasked*, which was published in 1672. In the same year, Barclay, that he might bear his testimony against the corruptions of the times, exposed himself in sackcloth in the streets of Aberdeen, according to a custom which prevailed at that time among the Quakers. In the year 1675, he published an account of the disputation already noticed, which had been held with the divinity students. An account was also published by the

students, entitled, *Quakerism Canvassed*, which occasioned a reply, entitled, *Quakerism Confirmed*.

On his return to London from Holland, he learned that his father and other Quakers had been imprisoned in Aberdeen, for holding meetings there. He therefore presented a memorial on their behalf to Charles II., which was delivered by himself into the king's own hand. This interposition had the desired effect; for the Quakers soon after obtained their freedom. About the end of September 1676, the Apologist returned to Ury, and on the 7th November, was himself committed to prison in Aberdeen, along with several other Quakers, for holding meetings for public worship, and did not regain his liberty till the 9th April 1677. While in prison, he wrote a treatise, entitled, *Universal Love considered, and established upon its right foundation*; which he published after his release. The last time that Barclay was annoyed by the magistrates of Aberdeen, was in the year 1679, when, along with a few of his friends, he was taken out of the meeting, but was discharged in a few hours after.

Notwithstanding their zeal in disseminating their doctrines, and opposing the religious establishment, both by writing and preaching, the success of the Quakers was by no means great. In 1700 there were only fifty Quakers in Aberdeen, who held their meetings and preached in church-yards, at burials, and on the dismissal of congregations. The following is recorded in Thom's History, as extracted from the Presbytery-records, 17th February 1698. "Last Sabbath, at New-hills, Margaret Jaffray, daughter of Andrew Jaffray, of Kings-wells, coming with other Quakers,

entered the church, and cried, 'Do not believe that deceiver,' and said she was sent of God to tell them 'He was about to destroy all idolatry and will-worship.'" At the present time the number living in Aberdeen does not exceed 10, and the number in the adjacent places is about 40. The meeting-house is situated on the west side of the Guestrow. It is supposed to be the same that was occupied by the Friends in the days of Barclay.

### *Glassites.*

The Rev. John Glass, minister of the parish of Tealing, having been expelled from the church of Scotland in 1728, in consequence of his refusal to acknowledge some things which were considered objectionable in his work, entitled, *The Testimony of the King of Martyrs*, some persons in and about Aberdeen, hearing of his views of the nature of Christ's kingdom, were favourably disposed towards him. Among the number, was Baillie John Strachan, who sent for Mr. Glass, and courteously entertained him during his first and subsequent visits. Mr. Glass preached in the parlour of the baillie's house, that which is now occupied by Provost Moir. In the year 1750, a church was formed upon the Glassite plan of church-order, which continued to meet for several years in the Flour-mill-brae. About 1760, a house was built in the neighbourhood of the Bow-Bridge, the upper floor of which has been used as a chapel, and is calculated to contain about 100 persons. The church consists of about 21 members. The meeting-house is generally



full. Mr. Duff is their principal preacher, and obscurity alone conceals his superior talents.

A rigid compliance with what they deem the commands and institutions of Christ and his apostles, characterizes this body of people. It does not appear that they are upon the increase; indeed their peculiar views respecting the preaching of the gospel, must prevent the increase of this denomination wherever they are placed.

### *Burgher-Seceders.*

On the death of Mr. John Bisset, an evangelical minister of one of the town's churches, which happened in the year 1756, a considerable number of his hearers being denied the privilege of voting for a successor, seceded from the church, and applying to the Burgher-Associate-Synod for a minister, fitted up a chapel at the back of the Weigh-house. Mr. Alexander Dick, father of Dr. Dick of Glasgow, who is author of an Essay on the Inspiration of the Scriptures, a work of great repute, was ordained pastor of the congregation in the year 1758. The congregation having greatly increased, it was found expedient to erect a more commodious place of worship, and accordingly, they built their present chapel on the site of the Bead-house, about the year 1772. Mr. Dick having died in 1795, was succeeded by Mr. William Brunton; and he by Mr. William Primrose, the present clergyman, who was ordained the pastor of this congregation in the year 1806.

A division took place on the appointment of a successor to Mr. Dick, the majority being in favour of Mr.

Brunton, and the minority, in favour of Dr. Dick. The minority accordingly separated from their brethren, and erecting a chapel in Belmont-Street, gave a call to Mr. Lawrance Glass, a worthy gentleman, who was ordained to the pastoral office in 1800. Their place of worship being in the line of Union-Street, was taken down, and another erected out of the materials, on the north side of the same street, entry from Correction-Wynd and St. Nicholas-Lane. Mr. Glass died in the year 1813, and Mr. Henry Angus, the present minister, was called to be his successor. In 1821, this congregation formed a connexion with the United Secession-Church.

### *Wesleyan Methodists.*

The Rev. John Wesley, the founder of the Wesleyan Methodists, was bred a clergyman of the Church of England, and continued in her bosom till the day of his death. He was first called a Methodist, along with Mr. Hervey, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Whitfield, and other students at Oxford-College, on account of the regularity of their lives, and strictness of attention paid by them to the Canons of the University. Before his return from Georgia, whither he had gone to act partly as a chaplain, and partly as a missionary, Mr. Wesley became more fully acquainted with the nature of justification before God; and on preaching, in and about London, justification by faith without the deeds of the law, he drew general attention both from professors and from profane. The clergy shut him out from their pulpits, and he being obliged to take the fields or hold his peace, chose the former alternative; and many felt the power of God under his preaching. In the end of

the year 1739, eight or ten persons in London, who appeared to be convinced of sin, went to him, and desired him to spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come. Mr. Wesley accordingly appointed an evening for meeting them. This, says Mr. Wesley, "was the rise of the *United Society*, first in London, and then in other places." It may be remarked, that Mr. Wesley never intended to form a church distinct from the Church of England, but a religious society within it; neither did he ever separate from the Church of England himself, nor advise any one to do so, but in exempt cases, such as when the minister's principles were erroneous, or his conduct immoral.

Soon after the death of Mr. Bisset, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, Dr. Memyss, who had joined the Methodist Society in Wrexham, had occasion to go to London, and seeing Mr. Wesley, expressed to him the great need which he conceived the people of Aberdeen had for evangelical preaching. Mr. Wesley, ever ready to obey the call of Providence, sent some of his assistants to Aberdeen.

Mr. Christopher Hopper, who for some years accompanied Mr. Wesley in his travels, came to Aberdeen about the year 1759. As was the custom for some time after, Mr. Hopper preached every morning on the Castle-hill at five o'clock. The usage which this zealous and venerable minister of Christ received, is still fresh in the memories of a few. Stones and dead animals thrown at him, was the usual mode of salutation adopted by some of his audience. It must have been to a person of feeling, a heart-rending sight to see the blood trickling down the face of him who was ex-

horting his persecutors to flee from the wrath to come.

Divine service was generally performed in a meeting-house in the evening of the Lord's-day and other days. The first place occupied by the Methodist preachers was in Barnett's close; the next, a house north of Queen-Street, and the third, one in Lodge-walk. Mr. Hopper was succeeded by Mr. James Kershaw, and he by Mr. William Fugill, who formed a society in June 1761, consisting of about six persons, one of whom is still alive. Mr. William Fugill was succeeded by Mr. William Thompson, the first, after Mr. Wesley, who was chosen president of the Methodist Conference. Mr. Thomas Hanby officiated in 1763. By this time the Methodist preacher was treated with more respect. Mr. Hanby, being an excellent preacher, and a person of very accomplished manners, was very much admired: and consequently found his way into families of the first rank in Aberdeen. We may here mention, that the late John Ewen, Esq. who was then a member of the Methodist Society, and afterward a trustee of the chapel in Queen-Street, was, under the providence of God, indebted to Mr. Hanby and the Methodists for his elevated rank in society, having been introduced to Mr. Hanby's friends, among whom was Mrs. Middleton, a lady of some fortune, who, with her daughter, was a member of the society. It is known only by a few, that Mrs. Ewen was once Miss Middleton, and that she died a Methodist. Mr. Ewen, for reasons best known to himself, afterward forsook the Methodists; yet he was never ashamed of accompanying Mr. Wesley on his visits in the city. The violence done to the persons of

the Methodist preachers had, as we have already observed, ceased before Mr. Hanby's time, but the impious wags of the day thought the denomination fair game on which to play their fooleries; as sufficiently appears from the following incident. While Mr. Hanby was preacher, the skeleton of one William Wast, a sailor, which had hung in chains for a long time on the Gallow-hills, was taken down, and put up at the door of the Methodist meeting-house, Lodge-walk, having the following inscription fixed in front:

“ I, William Wast, at the point of damnation,  
Request the prayers of this congregation. ”

The person employed to perform this *feat* of removing the skeleton, hung up his father's cart in its place.

Mr. Wesley, who had visited Scotland in 1751, came to Aberdeen for the first time on the 24th May 1763, and received considerable attention. He preached that evening in the College-close, and next evening in the College-hall, or public school, as we suppose. Mr. Wesley visited Aberdeen again on the 2d June 1764, by which time, the foundation of a chapel had been laid in Queen-Street. He preached in the College-hall and close, many of those assembled not being able to hear. He also preached in the College-kirk at Old Aberdeen. Mr. Wesley, however, in some of his subsequent visits, experienced treatment little better than what had been bestowed on some of his assistants.

In 1797, several persons, some of whom were the leading members of the society, separated from it, and uniting with others, formed themselves into a church, and built the Congregational Chapel, George-Street.

In 1816, one of the preachers dissolved formally, although not virtually, the Methodist Society in Aberdeen. A special district-meeting of ministers, assembled at Aberdeen in the month of December, suspended him from his ministry till next conference. During Mr. Ward's superintendency was purchased the present chapel, which formerly belonged to Bishop Skinner. It had been intended to erect an elegant chapel in King-Street; but the purpose, for various reasons, was dropped. Their chapel is in Long-Acre, and is calculated to contain about 1000 persons.

Mr. Thomas Bridgman is their present superintendent: Mr. Jonathan Porter is his colleague. There are six local, or lay preachers, who labour gratuitously. The circuit of labour performed by these eight preachers includes Auchtmill, Cothal-mills, Old Meldrum, Inverury, Fettermier, Fordy in Kincardine O'Niel, Herne in Banchory Ternan, Garlogie in Skene, Stonehaven, the Cove in Nigg, and the city.

#### *Antiburgher-Seceders.*

About the year 1773, several persons belonging to the Established church, began to be dissatisfied with the doctrine which was preached, not thinking it sufficiently evangelical. Accordingly, such of them as were able, went occasionally to hear Mr. Brown at Craigdam, the Antiburgher-minister in that place, and father of the bookseller and stamp-distributor of our city. A few families of that persuasion coming from Craigdam, Huntly, &c. a meeting was formed in Aberdeen, in connexion with the church at Craigdam. Mr. Brown, and some probationers at the appointment of the Synod,

preached to them occasionally in a dancing-hall in *Double-dykes*, south side of Queen-Street. They afterward had worship in the play-house ; which was then in the Spittal. The congregation increasing, it was thought advisable to build a place of worship. Accordingly a chapel was erected in Belmont-Street, and opened in November 1779. Mr. Arthur from Perth was appointed first minister in 1782. Mr. M'Call succeeded him in April 1789, and was succeeded by Mr. Templeton, the present minister, in September 1801. About this time, a division took place in the Anti-burgher-Synod, relative to the power of the magistrate ; and some of Mr. Templeton's congregation espousing the side of the separatists, who styled themselves the Constitutional Associate Presbytery, separated from Mr. Templeton in the end of the year 1806, and obtained from the Presbytery a supply of ministers, who preached in Carmelite-Street. A chapel was erected in Skene-Street in 1810 ; and soon after, Mr. John Aitken, their present minister, was appointed pastor.

A union of the Burgher and Antiburgher-Synods having been lately effected, several of Mr. Templeton's congregation were disposed to join the United Secession-Church ; and on Mr. Templeton's hesitating to make any change till a testimony was issued as a ground of union, separated from him, and were formed into a church in 1821. Since that period, they have had a supply of probationers who preached for some time in a dancing-hall in the Gallowgate, but they have lately built a place of worship in Tannery-Street, calculated to contain about 900 persons.

*Relief-Church.*

A difference having taken place with regard to the appointment of Mr. Johnston to the Chapel of Ease, Gilcomston, in the year 1771, some of the people adopting the views of the Relief-Church, which had been formed in 1763, by Messrs. Gillespie, Boston, and Collier, who had separated from the Church of Scotland, resolved to build a place of worship; and in the meantime obtained occasional preaching from probationers in the Relief-connexion. In the year 1779, a church was erected in Belmont-Street. Messrs. Bryce and Brodie became candidates in 1780. The greater part of the subscribers were for the former, and the greater part of the hearers, for the latter. Those who favoured Mr. Brodie, built a chapel, the same year, in the Shiprow, and joined in connexion with that party in Scotland, who style themselves the Old Relief-Presbytery. About 1793, Mr. Brodie broke off fellowship with this party, and applied to the Synod of Relief for admission into their body. Owing to a favourable report, which had been made by a person deputed to inquire into the matter by the Synod of Relief, Mr. Brodie was admitted. In consequence of these and other measures, Mr. Bryce left the Relief, and joined the Establishment; his church becoming a Chapel of Ease, which it has continued to be till this day. Some years after this, Mr. Brodie was called to a Relief-Chapel in Glasgow, and was succeeded by Mr. Bower, who continued till 1807, when he gave up his charge. Previously, however, to this period, several of his congregation had separated from him, and erected a chapel in St. Andrew-Street. These called a Mr. Nelson, who was soon after succeeded by Dr.



Paton, from Collinsburgh. He continued only about two years; his people being anxious to join the Synod of Relief, had made application to that body. A few of the people, however, followed him, and on Mr. Bower's removal in 1807, he was appointed minister of the Shiprow chapel, where he continued till his death, which took place in 1811. Mr. David Gellatly, who had been deposed by the Synod of Relief, and had joined what is called the Old Relief-Presbytery, succeeded him; and upon his death, in 1821, Mr. Patrick Ross, a young man from King's College, was appointed minister.

After Dr. Paton's dismissal from the chapel in St. Andrew-Street, the congregation obtained a supply from the Synod of Relief, and in 1807, Mr. Samuel M'Millan, who belonged to the Glasgow Relief-Presbytery, was ordained over them as their pastor. He still continues minister of the Relief-Church, and sustains a character more honourable to the body to which he belongs, than was that of several already mentioned to their connexions.

### *Congregationalists.*

In the year 1796, two persons, one of whom was a Methodist, and the other a Seceder, communicated their sentiments to each other concerning the need there was of forming a new church in Aberdeen. The former was inclined to Calvinism, and popular election of ministers and office-bearers; and the latter was disposed to exert himself in the spread of religious knowledge, somewhat more than did the generality of his brethren. Accordingly, a few persons who had left

the Methodist society and the Secession-church, entered into a correspondence with Drs. Stafford, Williams, and Bogue, English Independents. A supply of preachers was speedily granted, the first of whom was Mr. James Bennet of Romsay.

The chapel in George-Street was erected in 1798, and Mr. William Stephens appointed pastor in 1800. After his departure to Edinburgh, Mr. John Philip from Hoxton academy was appointed his successor in 1804. In May 1806, Mr. Philip thought it necessary to dissolve the church, for the purpose of new-modeling it. A number of persons, amounting to 30 and upward, were unwilling to submit to what they considered arbitrary measures, and having separated from the congregation in George-Street, formed themselves into a church, and obtained a supply of preachers from Mr. Haldane of Edinburgh. They immediately erected a chapel in Frederick-Street, which was opened by Mr. David Russel in December 1807. Mr. Russel not being so successful in Aberdeen as might have been expected, removed to Dundee in 1809, where he has been eminently useful. In May 1815, Mr. Penman, the present minister, was appointed; the people having had only occasional preaching during the interval.

In the year 1819, Mr. Philip (now Dr. Philip) received the appointment of General Superintendent of the London Missionary Society's missions in the south of Africa; and consequently resigned his charge, to the great regret, not only of his large congregation, but of the religious part of the community in general. After his removal, Mr. Alexander Thomson was appointed to be pastor, in 1820. A short time previous

to this appointment, a chapel had been erected at Woodside, intended to be open to evangelical ministers of all denominations; but to which Mr. James Spence, a young man educated at Marischal-College, and afterward at the Congregational academy, Glasgow, was appointed minister. He had been a candidate for the vacancy occasioned by Dr. Philip's removal, but proved unsuccessful.

Several persons belonging to the chapel in George-Street and Frederick-Street, having absented themselves from their own pastor's ministry, attended on Mr. Spence's. The building of a chapel in Blackfriars-Street was projected in the year 1821, and Mr. Spence was appointed minister. Soon after his resignation of the chapel at Woodside, Mr. M'Kechnie was appointed the pastor of the small church assembling there.

### *Baptists.*

There have been a few Baptists in Aberdeen, for more than fifteen years, who follow the church order of what has been denominated the Scotch Baptists; their number however has not exceeded 50, though comprising two distinct societies.

In the beginning of the year 1821, Mr. John Gilmour, who had received his education for the ministry at Bradford academy, belonging to the particular Baptist denomination, paid a visit to our city, and opened St. George's Lodge as a place of worship, and soon after obtained the use of the Relief-Chapel, St. Andrew-Street, in the evenings of the Lord's days. A church was formed in the end of the year, which already amounts to 25 persons. The number of hearers, how-

ever, being far greater than can be accommodated in the lodge, the members of the church have been encouraged to undertake, by private subscription, the building of a place of worship in Union-Terrace, which has already commenced.

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## XI.

## EDUCATION.

*Universities.*

**KING'S COLLEGE.** Previous to the Reformation, there were in Scotland, besides King's college in Old Aberdeen, two universities; namely, that of St. Andrews, founded in 1412; and that of Glasgow, in 1454. The institution of the university and King's College of Aberdeen, was originally designed by William Elphinston, bishop of Aberdeen. At his solicitation, James IV. applied to Pope Alexander VI. for a bull, which he obtained on the 10th February 1494, for instituting a university, to be organized after the manner of the universities of Paris and Bononia. The bishop also obtained from James on the 22d May 1497, a confirmation of the pope's bull. Several years, however, elapsed before any seminary was founded, although the erection of the college had commenced. In the year 1505, Bishop Elphinston published the first foundation, by which he erected and endowed a college of students and masters, under many salutary regulations, dedicating it to the Virgin Mary. It was, however,

distinguished afterward by the more appropriate name of the Royal College, or King's College, of Aberdeen.

By a charter dated 8th November 1641, King Charles I. incorporated this and Marischal-College into one university, which he named King Charles' University of Aberdeen. He at the same time granted to the members of these united Institutions the revenues of the see of Aberdeen, in addition to what James IV. and James VI. had given to the university, appropriating two-thirds of the revenues to the old college, and one-third to the new. Charles II. having replaced the bishops in their sees, the revenues were consequently restored to their respective prelates. This annulled the union of the two colleges, which have since remained separate bodies, totally independent of each other. By reason of the frequent augmentations of ministers' stipends from the parish-tythes, of which the principal and professors of King's College had been appointed titularies, the income of the Institution was reduced to a mere trifle. Consequently, they found it necessary, about the year 1751, to sell the superiorities belonging to the college, and also the patronage of their churches; for which they received about £3000 sterling. Of late years, a grant of £700 has annually been made by government. There are belonging to this college, and originally founded for the encouragement of learning, many ample bursaries, which are given to successful competitors. The produce of the money originally given for bursaries, has lately been considerably augmented by the rise of land; the whole being faithfully devoted to the object

intended by the benevolent donors, and in same cases, beyond the conditions of the foundation.

Students attend four sessions of College. Each session begins on the first Monday of November, and ends on the last Friday of March following. There are six classes, exclusive of those of Theology and Oriental Languages.

1st. Class,—HUGH M'PHERSON, M. D. Sub-Principal and Professor of Greek, appointed in 1797.

2d. Class,—JOHN TULLOCH, A. M. Professor of Mathematics, 1811.

3d. Class,—WILLIAM PAUL, A. M. Professor of Natural Philosophy, 1811.

4th. Class,—HERCULES SCOTT, A. M. Professor of Moral Philosophy, 1821.

5th. Class,—PATRICK FORBES, A. M. Professor of Humanity, 1817.

6th. Class,—PATRICK FORBES, A. M. Lecturer on Chemistry and Natural History, 1817.

DUNCAN MEARNES, D. D. is Professor of Theology, 1815.

JAMES BENTLEY, A. M. is Professor of Oriental Languages, 1798.

WILLIAM JACK, M. D. is Principal.

The following have no classes :

ALEXANDER DAUNEY, LL. D. Professor of Civil Law.

JAMES BANNERMAN, M. D. Professor of Medicine.

A Chaplaincy, instituted by a Dr. Murray, is about to be opened.

The library contains an extensive collection of valuable books, which is owing principally to the circum-

stance that King's College has a right to a copy of every book entered in Stationers' Hall.

**MARISCHAL-COLLEGE.** As has already been mentioned, the magistrates presented to George Earl Marischal of Scotland, for the establishing of a college in New Aberdeen, the buildings and garden which formerly belonged to the Franciscan Friars, situated on the east side of Broad-Street. The charter of foundation was executed by him on the 2d April 1593. It obtained the sanction of the General Assembly, four days after; and was confirmed by the king in parliament, on the 21st July in the same year. For the support of this institution, the earl granted, in mortmain, the property which had been presented to him by the council, and also various spots of land, tenements, and annuities, which had formerly belonged to the monastic orders of Dominican and Carmelite Friars of Aberdeen. In the 18th century, several attempts were made to unite the two colleges, not only into one university, but into one college; but these attempts proved unsuccessful. The sources of income are various, but not extensive. There are in this college also, bursaries to a considerable amount. The highest fee paid at either college for one branch is three guineas. The whole course of education may be obtained for the sum of 20 guineas, exclusive of servants' fees, and other small items. The session commences on the 1st of November, and ends on the 1st of April following.

1st. Class,—JOHN STEWART, A. M. Professor of Greek,  
1782.

2d. Class,—JAMES DAVIDSON, M. D. Professor of Natural and Civil History, 1811.

3d. Class,—PATRICK COPLAND, LL. D. Professor of Natural Philosophy, 1775.

4th. Class,—GEORGE GLENNIE, D. D. Professor of Moral Philosophy, 1796.

ROBERT HAMILTON, LL. D. Professor of Mathematics, 1779.

JOHN CRUICKSHANK, A. M. Dr. Hamilton's assistant and successor, 1817.

JAMES KIDD, A. M. Professor of Hebrew, 1794.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTONE, M. D. Professor of Medicine, 1790.

GEORGE FRENCH, M. D. Professor of Chemistry, 1793.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE BROWN, D. D. Principal and Professor of Theology, 1795.

All the Professors have classes every session, except Dr. Livingstone. There belong to the Observatory many valuable instruments, among which are a transit, quadrant, and equatorial, which stand beneath three cupolas rising above the roof of the building; those over the two last instruments having a circular movement. The principal time-keeper stands on the intersection of two walls. There is a clock whose dial-plate shows a great variety of astronomical motions. A reflecting telescope, having a focus of 10 feet, both on the Gregorian and Newtonian principles, is mounted on an equatorial apparatus, and so constructed, that two observers can view the same object at the same time. There is also a reflecting telescope by Hearne, on the Newtonian principle, the focus of which is five feet.



There is a very fine scale of equal parts, of five feet, divided by micrometer-microscopes to 10,000 of an inch, made by Troughton, who made only two others, one of which was but three feet long; also a fine theodolite, of 16 inches, by the same artist, constructed on the same principle as the great theodolite used in the Trigonometrical Survey of Britain. There is a 45 inch achromatic telescope, made by Dolland.

The library originally consisted of a collection of books, that, in former times, belonged to St. Nicholas' Church, part of which were preserved from the destruction that overtook the various monasteries in our city. The books were by virtue of an act of the town-council, transferred from the church to the college in 1632. Additions of many valuable manuscripts and books, have been made by several distinguished individuals. The funds of the library are not large; but many of the best modern productions are to be found. The members of this college have the liberty of calling for those books belonging to King's College which are received from Stationers' Hall.

In the museum are a great many specimens of articles in the various departments of natural history, especially in mineralogy; also a good many of the serpent-tribe, and of other animal productions, preserved in spirits; and a great variety of natural and artificial curiosities. There has lately been presented to the college an Egyptian mummy, which is generally supposed to be superior to any in Europe.

The apparatus used by Dr. Copland, Professor of Natural Philosophy, is elegant and extensive. The Doctor having had a peculiar turn for mechanical phi-

losophy, has enriched that department of science by his own labours, and those of first-rate mechanics, among whom we have the pleasure of ranking our town's-men, Messrs. King and Lunan, deceased, and Mr. James Dalziel watchmaker. The collection is generally considered as superior to any in Britain, and some deem it superior to any in Europe.

There are attached to the two colleges five lecturers, four of whose offices, when vacant, are supplied by the alternate nomination of the colleges, the other college being supposed to confirm the nomination. The lecturer on Scotch law, is attached to Marischal-College, and is nominated to his office by the Society of Advocates.

DRS. SKENE and EWING, are Lecturers on Anatomy and Physiology.

DR. HENDERSON is Lecturer on Materia Medica, Pharmacy, and Dietetics.

DR. BLAIKIE is Lecturer on Surgery and Surgical Pathology.

ALEXANDER THOMSON, Esq. Scotch Law.

About 500 students attend both universities yearly. In session 1821 and 1822, there were not fewer than 155 students of divinity, a number sufficient to supply all the vacancies that occur in the Church of Scotland.

We are happy to learn, that there is an increasing proportion of students who are evangelical in their sentiments. The Scotch Missionary Society will doubtless exercise a beneficial influence on future candidates for the ministry, in our national church; none being employed by them, who are not both orthodox in their principles, and godly in their lives.

P

*Public Schools.*

GRAMMAR-SCHOOL. The earliest account that we have of this seminary reaches to the year 1418. About the year 1616, Dr. James Cargil, demised the sum of 500 merks Scots, to the town-council, the interest of which was to be applied for the school-fees of boys whose parents were in indigent circumstances, and for purchasing school-books for the use of such scholars. In 1625, a donation of 500 merks Scots was made by an individual whose name is not known. In 1634, Dr. Patrick Dun, Principal of Marischal-College, presented to the magistrates a deed of mortmain, of his lands of Ferry-hill, for the maintenance, "allenary," of four masters, appointing the yearly rent to be laid out on interest, until the money should accumulate to such a sum as would purchase land of the annual value of 600 merks, in addition to the rents of Ferry-hill. The magistrates were nominated trustees for the management of this fund after the founder's death. It was the intention of Dr. Dun, that no higher fee than "thretteine schillings four pennies Scots' money," per quarter, should be exacted from any scholar, "unless he be the son of a marquis, earl, viscount, lord, or baron;" that "whatsomever scholar coming to the grammar-school, and bringing with him ane testimonial, subscribed by honest and famous men, declaring his povertie, or the povertie of his parents, *shall be taught gratis.*" Those of the name of Dun are also entitled to be taught gratis, "whatsomever rank or condition they be," and likewise "the whole tennants sonnes, of the aid lands of Ferriehill, and haill remanent lands to be

conquist for the use foresaid to be teached gratis perpetuallie in all time coming."

Conformably to the conditions of Dr. Dun's settlement, the magistrates allowed the rents of Ferry-hill to accumulate to such a sum as would, if laid out on lands, produce 600 merks yearly; this they declared to be the case in 1666, although a great part of the funds had been lost through the failure of several persons who had been in the magistracy, to whom sums had been lent. In the year 1677, the magistrates bought the lands of Gilcomston, for £17,666:13s:4d. Scots, or £1,472:4s:5d. sterling, and invested in this purchase the funds belonging to the masters of the grammar-school, in terms of Dr. Dun's deed of mortmain, as declared by act of council dated the 31st July 1678. In the year 1679, however, it was enacted by the town-council that the disposition granted by Pitfoddle's, (from whom the lands had been purchased,) to the master of mortifications, should be *cancelled*, and one made out in favour of the Town's treasurer, he giving security for the sums advanced by the master of mortifications. Complaints and arbitrations followed; the narration of which would exceed the limits of this publication.

It is much to be regretted that Dr. Dun's generous and charitable purposes have not been accomplished; for they were fraught with benefits of no ordinary kind to the citizens of Aberdeen. Indeed such is the state of the funds, that, at present, no salary is paid to the masters, except that arising from the feu-duty of the lands of Ferry-hill, amounting to £164 per annum: and the fees have lately been raised to half a guinea

per quarter. The teachers are James Cromar, *Rector*, Robert Forbes, Alexander Nicol (James Melvin, assistant and successor) and James Watt, *masters*. The present number of scholars is about 200. The three *masters* carry on their respective classes for three years, after which time they deliver them up to the care of the rector. The scholars then enter his first class, and in the subsequent year, his second. The whole course of instruction thus embraces a period of five years.

WRITING AND ARITHMETIC-SCHOOL, *Correctionwynd*. A school for teaching writing and the principles of arithmetic and book-keeping, was instituted in the year 1607. Mr. William Duncan, afterward professor of natural philosophy in King's College, taught this school for many years, and raised its character to a high degree of respectability. Its fame has been preserved by the zealous labours of Mr. Cruden, and by Mr. Findlay the present teacher of arithmetic, navigation, mathematics, &c. &c. who was appointed in 1818. Mr. Craigmile is his assistant in the writing-department. The master formerly enjoyed a salary, but none has been paid since the bankruptcy of the town's treasury.

ENGLISH-SCHOOL. Previously to the year 1673, the vernacular language was taught generally by a few old men and women ; but at the above-mentioned period, such persons were prohibited by the magistrates from teaching children to read or write, under the penalty of severe censure ; and a school for teaching the English language grammatically, was instituted in Aberdeen, under the patronage of the magistrates. Mr. Gilbert Falconer, who is known as an assiduous teacher, is the present master. His salary is 400 merks Scots.

**GRAMMAR-SCHOOL, Old Aberdeen.** This is but a modern institution. Mr. Ewen M'Lauchlan, lately deceased, was teacher for about 22 years. The average-number of scholars is 40 : their period of attendance is from three to five years.

**FOOTDEE SCHOOL.** This school was instituted by the magistrates about the beginning of the 16th century, for instructing children in reading, writing and arithmetic. A salary of 100 merks Scots was given by the kirk-session to the teacher, as schoolmaster and precentor of Footdee Church. The salary has occasionally been increased. The master is chosen by a committee of the magistrates and kirk-session. Mr. Smith the session-clerk is the present teacher.

**TRADES' SCHOOL.** This school was founded in 1808 by Convener Webster, who gave a sum of money to be applied as a fund for producing a salary to the teacher. Each of the seven trades gives £5 annually, and also the master of the Trades' hospital the same sum. There are two teachers ; the master having a salary of £30 and half the scholars' fees, and the assistant £10 and the other half. The fees are extremely small. None are admitted but the children of members of the corporations.

*Academies, Private Schools, Private Teachers, &c.*

**MESSRS. D. & A. GRANT'S ACADEMY, Long Acre.** This school was occupied, for many years, by the late Mr. John Bower, who taught English reading with great success. The branches taught at present are English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, and Latin. The school is annually visited by the lord pro-

vost, magistrates, professors of the University, and the ministers of the Established church. Messrs. Grant receive a few young gentlemen as boarders, who are taught, besides the branches above-mentioned, the Greek language, geography, and mathematics. A small salary was wont to be given by the town-council, but the late embarrassment of the treasury has prevented the continuance of the favour.

MR. ALEXANDER SMITH'S ENGLISH SCHOOL, *Shiprow*. Mr. Smith has been a successful teacher of English, elocution, &c., for many years. His school is annually visited by the magistrates, &c.

MR. WILLIAM ELGEN'S COMMERCIAL ACADEMY, *Drum's Lane*. Mr. Elgen was a pupil and assistant of the late Mr. William Duncan. Mr. E. teaches arithmetic, mathematics, geography, stenography, &c.

MR. REID'S ACADEMY, *Upperkirkgate*. This academy was originally under the direction of Mr. Esson. Young gentlemen are received as boarders, and instructed in all the usual branches of a liberal education.

MR. THOMAS MESTON'S ACADEMY, *Union-Street*. Mr. Meston is a very successful teacher of English reading, English grammar, geography, and history.

ABERDEEN ACADEMY, *Union-Street*. This seminary was established in 1818 by Messrs. James Welsh, George Smith, and John Paton, with a design to unite together all the branches of Education which are necessary to the engineer, architect, surveyor, navigator, and merchant; and to join to them such studies as might afterward form rational and pleasing objects of pursuit through life. In 1819, Mr. John Megget was elected teacher of elocution, English grammar, and

composition. There are four departments in the academy, viz. the mathematical department, taught by Mr. James Welsh ; the drawing-department, by Mr. George Smith ; the writing and book-keeping department, by Mr. Charles Chandler ; and the elocution-department, by Mr. John Megget.

Each department is conducted on philosophical principles. In all the departments there is maintained a complete separation between the young ladies and young gentlemen. A competition is held in the drawing-department biennially, and in the other departments annually. During the four years that this academy has existed, the average-number of pupils has been nearly 300. It is purposed to erect a building suited for this seminary in a central part of the city, and to extend the plan of education by admitting teachers of other branches, especially a teacher of languages. Nearly £1200 have already been subscribed for this purpose.

MR. SIM'S ACADEMY, *Guestron*—recently established.

SUNDRY SCHOOLS. Mr. Davidson's, Mr. Presslie's, Mr. Dunn's, Mr. Harvey's, Mr. M'Donald's, Mr. Cowie's, Mr. Hill's, Mr. Stewart's, Mr. Ledingham's, Mr. Henderson's, Mr. Ross', Mr. Cumming's, Mr. Hay's, Mr. Bartlett's, Mr. Clark's, Mr. Jaffray's, Mr. Robertson's, Mr. Cromar's, Mr. Young's, Mr. Barclay's, Mr. Elmslie's, Mr. Brown's.

PRIVATE TEACHERS. A list of private teachers cannot be given. Many young men attending the Universities set apart their spare hours to private teaching. The principal teachers are, Messrs. Torrie, Dubois, Morren, Senebier, and Schoenberg, teachers of



French, Italian, &c.; Messrs. Machray, Greek—Middleton, Greek and Latin—Ettershank, Geography, Mathematics, &c.—and Wilson, English Grammar, &c.

ARCHITECTURE, PERSPECTIVE, &c. Mr. Fraser.

DRAWING. Messrs. Marshall, Birnie, Monro, and Glennie.

MUSIC, *Instrumental*. Mr. John Ross, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Hay, Messrs. Archibald Duff, James Davie, J. Middleton, and J. and W. Taylor.

MUSIC, *Vocal*. Messrs. J. Knott, Alexander Keard, and Alexander Thom.

DANCING. Messrs. J. T. Corbyn, A. Duff, A. Downie, and A. Milne.

BOARDING SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG LADIES. Misses Drysdale's, Mrs. Cockerill's, Miss Sangster's, Miss Smith's, Mrs. Thomson's, Misses Laing's, and Miss Simpson's.

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## XII.

### GENERAL LITERATURE.

#### *Literary Societies.*

DIVINITY. *The Society for Improvement in Pulpit Composition*, was formed in May, 1821. It consists of a limited number (20) of students in divinity, who meet once a week during the session, and once a fortnight in summer, for the purpose of exercising themselves in pulpit-oratory. The exercises are, a sermon by one of their number, followed with critical remarks by the rest; and the discussion of a passage of Scripture,

either as a subject of popular discourse, or critical exercise, on which all are expected to deliver their sentiments in writing.

Connected with this division of our work stands the *Theological Library*. It commenced in the year 1700 with a donation of 1000 merks, granted by the synod of Aberdeen, from the vacant stipends of the Professor of Divinity in King's College. It is supported by private donations and annual contributions from students of divinity. The disposable funds are at an average £50 per annum.

**LAW.** *Writers' Society.* This society was instituted in 1821, for the improvement of students of law in legal knowledge. They meet once a week, when an essay is delivered, and a query discussed. Quarterly contributions are exacted, which, together with fines, are to be applied to the establishment and support of a library, consisting principally of law-books.

**MEDICINE.** *Medico-Chirurgical Society.* This society was instituted in 1789. It consists of two classes of members—*honorary* and *ordinary*. Ordinary members consist of medical students only. Each ordinary member, on his admission pays half a guinea to the funds of the institution. They deliver discourses on medical subjects, which are freely discussed at the subsequent meeting. The honorary members are admitted by ballot, contribute two guineas annually to the funds, and deliver discourses on the several branches of medicine.

A library, consisting chiefly of medical books, was instituted in February 1791, and a museum in June, the same year. An elegant house has been erected in

King-Street, for the expense of which, nearly £3000 have been subscribed.

The whole property belonging to this society is vested in the professors of Marischal-College, as trustees.

### *Literary Prizes.*

MR. JOHN BURNETT'S PRIZES. A small part of a general fund left for pious and charitable purposes by Mr. John Burnett, merchant in Aberdeen, who died in 1784, was appointed to be set apart annually, and allowed to accumulate for a two-fold purpose—1st. for his *two prizes*—2dly, for an addition to the provision previously made for the poor of Aberdeen. This accumulating fund is for ever to be applied to its objects at the end of every 40th year. The accumulation of the first 25 years, if not less than £1600, is destined for prizes to the authors of the two best essays on the following subject:—"The evidence, that there is a Being all powerful, wise, and good, by whom every thing exists; and particularly to obviate difficulties regarding the Wisdom and Goodness of the Deity; and this, in the first place, from considerations independent on written Revelation; and, in the second place, from the Revelation of the Lord Jesus: and from the whole to point out the inferences most necessary for and useful to mankind." Three-fourths of the sum are assigned to the first, and one-fourth to the second in merit.

The prizes were first announced to the public by an advertisement in the year 1807. The time allowed by the testator for the composition of these treatises ex-

tended to the 1st January 1814. Accordingly, 50 dissertations were presented to the judges by the time prescribed. The first prize of £1200, was adjudged to an essay written by W. L. Brown, D. D. Principal of Marischal-College, &c. &c.; and the second prize of £400, was allotted to the Rev. John Bird Sumner, A. M. of Eton College.

There has lately been presented to the public an unsuccessful essay, written by Mr. Samuel Drew of St. Austle, author of several treatises of great repute. A learned gentleman has handed us the following eulogium; "This essay may very properly be denominated Divine metaphysics. It exhibits a view of the metaphysics peculiar to the Divine mind with more masterly skill than ever has been done before, Leibnitz and Clarke not excepted. The subjects of space and duration are discussed in a manner entirely new, and with a force of intellect which does not appear in the writings of these celebrated authors. In chapters IV. V. VI. and VII. the attributes of the Divine Being are exhibited in a light entirely new, masterly, and profound." We must confess, that some gentlemen deem Mr. Drew quite unintelligible on those very points.

**MRS. BLACKWELL'S PRIZE.** In 1798, Mrs. Blackwell, widow of Dr. Thomas Blackwell, formerly Principal of Marischal-College, bequeathed a sum of money to be laid out in a yearly prize of £10, to be given to the best essay on a given literary subject to be prescribed by the professors of Marischal-College. It was thought proper to make it a biennial prize of £20.

**UNIVERSITY-BURSARIES AND PRIZES.** Various individuals have given to both colleges bursaries in languages, philosophy, and theology, for the encouragement of young men in the prosecution of their studies. The amount of bursaries annually paid to students in both universities, is not less than £2300. Prizes are given to students in King's College, amounting to £60 or £70 per annum. The late John Gray, Esq. of London, founded a bursary in mathematics, amounting to £25 biennially, to be given by competition of students, who had attended two courses of mathematics in Marischal-College, and had been regular students in the other classes. The bursary is now increased to £50 biennially. The late Dr. Hutton left a bursary of £10 to be given annually to students in King's College, by competition in the several branches taught by the four regents. The other prizes of King's College, are given by the suffrage of the students, according to the proficiency and good character of the successful candidates.

### *Publications.*

**NEWSPAPERS.** In 1748, Mr. James Chalmers, son of Mr. James Chalmers, Professor of Divinity in Marischal-College, published a weekly paper under the title of *The Aberdeen Journal, or North British Magazine*. It owed its origin to an account of the battle of Culloden, which he published in April 1746. The Aberdeen Journal was the first periodical work published north of the Forth. The work appeared weekly, for some time, on Monday, but of late years, it has been published on Wednesday. It is at present conducted

by Mr. David Chalmers, grandson of the original publisher. The office is in the Adelphi-Court.

Several attempts were made to establish another newspaper. In the year 1752, a newspaper called *The Aberdeen Intelligencer*, was attempted by Messrs. Douglas and Murray, but did not succeed ; and in the year 1770, the late Mr. John Boyle published a paper which continued only for a year or two. In 1806, however, the *Aberdeen Chronicle* made its appearance ; which has succeeded so far as to obtain a pretty extensive circulation. It is published on Saturday, and is conducted by Mr. John Booth, the printer and proprietor. The office is in the North-Street.

The number of copies published at the two offices, is supposed to be, at an average, 2000 weekly. As it might be expected, they incline to opposite sides in politics.

**ALMANACK.** The first almanack published in Scotland commenced at Aberdeen, in the year 1677, under the title of *A New Prognostication calculated for North Britain*. Messrs. Douglas and Murray, in company with Mr. Chalmers, published an Almanack for Aberdeen, at the price of two-pence, in sheets, but it was discontinued after the trial of a few years. In 1771, Mr. Chalmers commenced the publication of an almanack for Aberdeen, containing a calendar, and lists of persons in public situations in the town. This work is still continued under the title of *The Aberdeen Almanack, and Northern Register*.

**TIDE-TABLES.** Tide-tables are annually published by Mr. George Innes, watchmaker, Gilcomston. These tables show, at sight, the true time of high water at

Aberdeen and London, and the sun's declination every day at noon. There is annexed a list of vessels registered at the port of Aberdeen, with their tonnage, &c., &c. These tables commenced in 1821. The tide-tables in common use before the publication of these, gave two tides for every day throughout the year.

### *Circulating Libraries.*

These are numerous, and some of them very extensive. They are as follow: Brown, and Co's Public Library, Broad-Street; Robertson's New Public Library, Broad-Street; Lawrie's Circulating Library, Gallowgate; Watson's Circulating Library, Broad-Street; and the Library of the Caledonian Literary Society.

There are also congregational libraries, viz. the United Secession-Church Library, Correction-Wynd; Chapel of Ease Library, Gilcomston; Methodist Library; Catholic-Chapel Library; and George-Street Congregational-Chapel Library.

### *Reading-Rooms.*

THE ATHENÆUM, *Castle-Street*, contains all the respectable newspapers, and many of the periodical works published in London and Edinburgh, and an extensive collection of maps, atlases, sea-charts, &c. The annual subscription is one guinea and a-half.

EXCHANGE-NEWS-ROOM, *Union-Street*, is an establishment similar to the Athenæum. The room is very elegant, and furnished in a superior manner. The subscription is one guinea and a-half.

## XIII.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES.

**ARCHITECTURE.** Our oldest buildings have their ornaments of free-stone; the dressing of granite not being practised till of late. About 20 years ago, the Aberdeen Bank was erected of fine dressed granite, and it is said to have been the first building in the kingdom that had its ornaments of granite-stone. Notwithstanding the facilities which are afforded us, by possessing granite-stone of the finest quality in abundance, there are few instances in our city, where architectural ornaments have been used, except in the public buildings, and Auchentoul's and Crimmonmogate's houses. Even uniformity of height is not preserved; and a lamentable want of taste is displayed throughout, in most of our modern erections. Indeed it is sufficiently apparent, that in most buildings, the taste of the mason seems to have been consulted, rather than the science and experience of the architect. If able architects were not to be found in our city, an excuse might be formed for our pravity of taste; but we have had, for some time, three men very eminent in their profession,—Messrs. John Smith, George Smith, and Archibald Simpson. Our opinion relative to the talents of these gentlemen is confirmed by the following extract, taken from the Aberdeen Journal, 9th February 1820: "Public Rooms.—We understand that the committee of subscribers have had under their consideration *nine* plans of these Rooms, executed by different architects in



London, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen, three have been selected as entitled to a decided preference; they are from designs furnished by Mr. James Raeburn of Edinburgh, and Messrs. Archibald Simpson, and George Smith, architects of Aberdeen. All of these plans are admirably executed, and reflect the highest credit on the talents and classical taste of the different architects, both in their general design, and interior arrangement. It must be gratifying to the inhabitants of Aberdeen to find among their town's-men, artists possessing so respectable a share of taste and abilities in their profession."

Considerable improvèment of late has been made, however, in gentlemen's country-seats about the town; especially those of the villa and cottage-style. As a villa, we give Woodhill for a specimen; and as cottages, Balgonie and Cotton.

**PAINTING.** About 10 years ago, we had scarcely an artist who taught the elements of drawing in this part of the country. Strangers frequently attempted to settle in the practice of this profession, but their stay was of short duration. Mr. George Smith, a native, and the artist who has furnished us with the drawings for this work, was the first that established a permanent drawing-academy in Aberdeen. His example has been followed by others; so that now there are three or four who teach that elegant art.

Mr. Megget of the Aberdeen Academy, devotes his leisure-hours to portrait-painting in oil. He unites to original genius the closest study of nature. His portraits are always pleasing, and at the same time forcible likenesses.

It may be proper to observe in this place, that there

are in Aberdeen several amateurs, who devote not a small part of their time to the study of the fine arts.

An artists' repository was lately established in our city by Mr. George Smith. One important branch of this repository is, a circulating port-folio of drawings purchased in London, containing several hundred specimens of different styles, many of which possess a considerable degree of merit.

**MUSIC.** Music was formerly much cultivated in Aberdeen. In the year 1750, a society was formed for the purpose of establishing weekly concerts in the city. Occasionally they had eminent leaders on the violin, among whom were Oliveri the elder, Pinto, Thurstans, and others, each enjoying a salary from the society. Owing to the death of several gentlemen amateurs, and various changes in the fashionable circles, the society was long ago dissolved. There belonged to the society a very fine collection of music, an excellent organ by Snetzler, a harpsichord, and a variety of other musical instruments. A golden lyre, ornamented with diamonds and rubies, was presented to the society by the late Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk. We learn that all these articles are lodged in Marischal-College, and are to be forth-coming to those who are interested in them. Nothing seems wanting at present, to the re-establishment of the society, but the spirited exertions of a few lovers of the art. The city, as may be seen in another part of this work, is well supplied with professional gentlemen, one of whom, Mr. Ross, organist of St. Paul's Chapel, is a composer of distinguished merit; and others, particularly Mr. Knott, have raised considerably the

style of music employed in different places of worship in our city.

**MECHANICS.** Although we have already passed an encomium on the labours of Dr. Patrick Copland of Marischal-College, we ought in this place to put him in the foremost rank of such of our town's-men as are endowed with a mechanical genius ; both on account of the number and worth of his various productions, and of their vast utility as employed in initiating in the sublime science of natural philosophy, a great number of youths, who annually resort to this seat of liberal education. Let it suffice that we say, the greater part of the Doctor's valuable apparatus, has been executed either by his own hands or according to his directions.

Doctor Dyce, another of our town's-men, seems to be possessed of a considerable share of ingenuity in the branch of mechanics. He has constructed locks of different kinds, which are proof against picking, and are considered by judges as superior to those made by Bramah, the celebrated locksmith. He is at present engaged in making a hygrometer, on an entirely new principle. The Doctor has constructed several other ingenious things.

Mr. John Gartly, watchmaker, of whom intimation has already been given, has the honour of having invented a detached escapement of a superior kind, one of which is used in the new clock of our prison-steeple. This clock has agate-pallets, continues to go during the period of winding up, and keeps time with great accuracy.

Mr. James Dalziel, watchmaker, also mentioned in another part of this work, is worthy of being particu-

larly noticed by us, not so much on account of his powers of invention, as of the neatness and excellence of his workmanship. He has been considerably employed in making philosophical instruments, one of which is an excellent hydrostatic balance made for King's College. He is at present engaged in furnishing a similar instrument, for Professor Leslie of Edinburgh, after the pattern of one made by Dr. Copland for Marischal-College, and which will weigh to a great degree of accuracy. The workmanship is unrivalled.

ASTRONOMY. Aberdeen has contributed in no small degree toward the enlargement of the boundaries of this science. The famous James Gregory, the inventor of the reflecting telescope, was a native of our city. We anticipate a still further enlargement of the bounds of this noble science, through the exertions of one of our town's-men. Mr. John Ramage, a leather-merchant, has for some time manifested a considerable genius for the different branches of natural philosophy, especially that branch which treats of optics. He has made several telescopes on an improved principle, and is still bent on a further extension of his plan. The following testimonial was signed by eight professors in King's and Marischal-Colleges; "During the course of last summer (1820) Mr. John Ramage of Aberdeen constructed a reflecting telescope on the principle of the *front-view*, the object-speculum of which was cast and polished by himself, its focal length being not less than 25 feet, and its diameter 15 inches. It is mounted on a stand placed in the open air, and provided with machinery by which a single person can easily and readily direct it to any quarter of the heavens; and when once

directed, the observer has no difficulty in keeping a celestial object in the field of view for a considerable time, by varying the position of the telescope, either in altitude or azimuth, without the least aid from an assistant on the ground. The view of the heavens which this instrument affords, is far superior to any thing hitherto displayed in this part of the country, and such as in our opinion entitles the ingenious artist to the patronage of those who wish either to extend the bounds of science, or to impart to others a distinct and gratifying view of those discoveries in astronomy, which have recently been made by the illustrious Herschel. The above-mentioned facts are certified from personal knowledge and ocular inspection."

The following extract is taken from the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, No. 8.

"At a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 5th March, 1821, there were laid before the society, drawings and a description of a twenty-five feet reflecting telescope, constructed by Mr. John Ramage, Aberdeen. This magnificent telescope, which does honour to Scotland, as well as to its ingenious author, is the largest reflecting telescope, we believe, that ever was constructed, excepting those of the celebrated Sir William Herschel."

We understand that Mr. Ramage is making preparation for a telescope the focal length of which is to exceed Herschel's largest one (40 feet) by 10 or 20 feet. The value of such an instrument must be very great, seeing that the telescope belonging to the Glasgow Observatory, made by Herschel, and 14 feet in length, cost 400 guineas; and that the value increases as the

squares of the focal lengths. At such ratio, a telescope of 60 feet would be worth 7000 guineas and upward.

Mr. Ramage has also directed his attention to improvements in the modern discovery of galvanism, &c., &c.

Mr. George Innes, watchmaker, another of our town's-men has, with few advantages derived from education, obtained a considerable degree of astronomical knowledge, and excels in the making of calculations. Mr. Innes has corresponded, for several years, with the first astronomers of the age. Some of his papers on lunar eclipses have also appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine*. We understand that he lends his assistance to a work of established respectability published in Edinburgh.

Had the limits of our work permitted us, we should have been happy to honour the names of many Aberdonians who have been distinguished for their attainments in literature and science; but this task is the less necessary, seeing their fame has already spread throughout the literary world.

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#### XIV.

#### HOSPITALS, ENDOWMENTS, &c.

**GORDON'S HOSPITAL.** Robert Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen, only lawful son of Mr. Arthur Gordon, advocate, of the family of Straloch, executed, on the 13th December 1729, a deed of mortmain, by which he conveyed his whole property to the provost, baillies,

town-council, and the four ministers of Aberdeen in trust, as a fund for building an hospital, and for the maintenance and education of boys whose parents are indigent, or unable to maintain them at schools, and put them to trades and employments; the trustees being managers of the Institution. Boys are entitled to be received into this hospital after the following order; 1st. Sons or grandsons of decayed burgesses of guild who are relations of the founder of the name of Gordon; 2d. of those related to him of the name of Menzies; 3d. of any others of the name of Gordon; 4th. of any others of the name of Menzies; 5th. those who are his relations of any other surname; 6th. the sons or grandsons of any other decayed burgesses; 7th. those of decayed members of the seven incorporated trades; 8th. those of decayed dyers and barbers; and lastly, those of poor inhabitants of Aberdeen in general. The house was opened in the year 1750, 30 boys being admitted. The age of admission is from 9 to 12 years old, and the period of continuance extends to the 16th year. Each boy on his leaving the hospital is allowed an apprentice-fee of £100 Scots, and at the end of his apprenticeship, £5 sterling; but those allowed to go abroad have £10 sterling. The number of boys at present maintained and educated in the house is 84. In addition to the common branches of education, mathematics, drawing, and French are taught; all being under the superintendence of Mr. Alexander Thom, who has been master since the year 1791. Two of the teachers live in the hospital.

**POOR'S HOSPITAL.** On the 17th February 1739, a meeting of the town-council suggested the propriety of

erecting an Infirmary and Work-house, and on the 30th May, in the same year, the proposal was made to a meeting of the inhabitants assembled in the town-house; which was adopted on the 25th June following. The principal support of these institutions was considered as dependent on the town-council, the guild-court, the kirk-session, and the convener-court of the trades. It was proposed that each of these bodies should elect four directors; the physicians and surgeons of Aberdeen, who had proffered their services *gratis*, and individuals and public bodies contributing £5 annually, should have the privilege of choosing one director; and the provost, being a director by virtue of his office, should be president of the meeting. The wealthy and benevolent having been solicited by the magistrates to lend their assistance, Mr. John Rickart of Auchnacant, a liberal benefactor to St. Paul's Chapel, ordained by a deed of settlement of date the 20th October, 1740, that, after the payment of certain legacies, the remainder of his property should be devoted to the benefit of the Infirmary already founded, and the Work-house about to be established; accordingly the sum of £4172 sterling was equally divided between these two institutions. The Work-house received from the magistrates £48 sterling, a bequest of Mr. John Kemp, made in the year 1713, for the purpose of educating and maintaining poor children; and in 1759, from Mr. A. Michie, property to a small amount, for the same purpose. Mr. James Mann, master of the hospital, also bequeathed a legacy of £95 sterling, which was allowed to increase to £200, for the purpose of paying apprentice-fees for boys brought up in the house.



In the year 1740, the magistrates purchased a ruinous building, which had been the residence of Lord Aberdeen, and fitted it up for a Work-house; the expense being defrayed by contributions of the inhabitants, in order that Mr. Rickart's endowment might remain entire. The hospital, accordingly, was on the 31st October, 1741, opened for the reception of such idle and strolling vagrants as should be found in the town, the poor inhabitants who had no way of earning a livelihood, and children of destitute persons. There were various kinds of labour carried on in the establishment, such as picking oakum, beating hemp, carding and spinning coarse wool and flax, knitting stockings, and manufacturing coarse cloth. The manufacture, however, was in the course of a few years entirely dropped; and the adults were dismissed, being allowed such aid as the institution could admit. On the 12th August 1818, the establishment was removed to a commodious house in Gallowgate; which, together with adjoining property, is worth £3785. The duties of teacher and clerk, vested in the master of the hospital, having become arduous, a teacher was added to the establishment on the 16th September 1818. The resources of the hospital are not adequate to defray its expenses; but the deficiency is annually paid out of a fund, called the United Fund, which was instituted in the year 1768. The expenditure for 1821 amounted to £410:2s:11d.; and the expenditure for nine years is, on an average, £409:17s:11d., per annum. The number of boys maintained, at present, in the hospital is 40. They are admitted between the ages of 8 and 10 years, and are allowed to remain till their 14th year.

The managers of the hospital and united-fund, consist of the magistrates, and members of the kirk-session, *ex officio*, the ministers of congregations whose annual contributions amount to £5, and 17 citizens nominated by the town-council.

**INFIRMARY.** Soon after the 25th June 1739, the convener of the trades was sent to Edinburgh and Glasgow, in order to inspect the Infirmaries of those cities, and from them, to digest the plan of a building that might be found suitable to Aberdeen. The plan produced by the convener was approved ; and accordingly, the foundation-stone was, with masonic honours, laid on the 1st January 1740. The house was opened in the month of August 1741. In the year 1753, the managers found it necessary to enlarge the building ; and proposed the erection of the east-wing and shop, which were opened at Whitsunday 1755. In 1758, another addition was found requisite ; but the funds being in a low state, a subscription for the purpose was set on foot ; and the west-wing contracted for on the 16th January 1760. Alterations on the operation-floor, and an additional floor over the shop, were agreed on, in October 1810, and additional fever-wards with other improvements, in 1819.

Among the early benefactors of this Institution, are Mr. John Rickart, Lady Frazer of Durris, and Mr. John Fraser sen., merchant in Aberdeen. The Honourable the Club have given, at different times, about £3000. John Forbes, Esq. of New, and Alexander Simpson, Esq. of Collyhill, bequeathed legacies of £1000 each, and Alexander Cuthbert £200.

In 1773, the managers were erected into a corpor-

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ate body, under the title of the *President and Managers of the Infirmary of Aberdeen*. The provost for the time being is president; and the four baillies, dean of guild, town's treasurer, the former provost, town-clerk, trades' convener, professor of medicine in Marischal-College, moderator of the synod of Aberdeen, all for the time being, are managers *ex officio*. Every person contributing £50 in one payment, is entitled to the office of manager; every public body contributing £100 in like manner, and every person bequeathing a legacy of £50, are entitled to nominate one, all for life: and every person giving £5 has a seat for a year.

At a meeting of the managers, held on the 1st October 1821, it was agreed that a committee, consisting of the president and 16 other members of the court, should be annually chosen. It is required, if possible, that 8 of the committee should be magistrates, clergymen, advocates, and physicians; and of each an equal number. The committee resolves itself into four sub-committees, one of which meets at the Infirmary once a week, or oftener if necessary, for the space of three months; while another meets at the Lunatic-Asylum, and superintends it, in the same manner, and for the same space of time. The court itself meets quarterly.

There are attached to the house, three physicians, a house-surgeon and apothecary, a treasurer and clerk, a house-keeper, and thirteen servants. The revenue for the year 1821 was £2135:10s:7½d, of which £916:12:4½ arose from collections in places of worship; and the expenditure for the same period was £1874:2s:4d. During last year there were 667 persons cured; and 956 out-patients had received advice

and medicines. The number of patients, at an average, was 63.

**LUNATIC-ASYLUM.** On the instituting of the Infirmary, the magistrates allotted the sum of £307 : 6s : 8d. Scots, as a Bedlam-Fund, to be paid yearly from the funds belonging to the master of mortifications, for the purpose of defraying the expenses attending the keeping of lunatics, for whose reception a few cells had been fitted up. In the year 1798, William Cargill left a sum about £1230 to trustees, to be applied to any benevolent purpose ; and which was devoted to the erection of a lunatic-asylum, on condition of five patients being received into the house, and supported *gratis*, clothes and bedding excepted. For the erection of a lunatic-asylum, many benevolent citizens entered into a subscription in the year 1800, and a house accordingly was erected. The Bedlam-Fund was appropriated by the magistrates to the new Institution, for which five patients are maintained *gratis*. William Innes, Esq. of Balnacraig, left £500, on condition of receiving one patient *gratis*. Thus 11 persons are maintained on what has been called the Pauper-Lunatic Fund. Baillie Daniel Cargill, bequeathed the sum of £1100 sterling ; Captain John Cushnie, £500 ; Isaac Hawkins Brown, Esq. of London, £500, 3 per cent. consols ; and lately, John Forbes, Esq. of New, £10,000 ; and Alexander Simpson, Esq. of Collyhill, £1000.

In order that a proper separation between incurables and convalescents might be made, and other desirable improvements effected, the managers resolved to erect an additional building, in which taste and utility should be united ; consequently, three acres of ground were

purchased, costing £920, and a commodious house has been raised, the expense of which exceeds £8000.

The managers of the infirmary are also managers of this institution.

The number of patients admitted since the Asylum was opened, till the 7th December 1821, amounts to 433, of whom 116 have been cured. The number in the house on the 7th December 1821, was 84. The revenue for the year, ending the 30th April 1821, was £1201 : 15s : 5½d., and the expenditure £1151 : 17s : 9d.

**PRIVATE LUNATIC-ASYLUM.** This Hospital was opened in the Spittal, in 1813, by Mr. James Shirrefs, formerly keeper of the Lunatic-Asylum. The Rev. Dr. Skene Ogilvy, and A. D. Forbes, Esq. of Balgonie, are managers; and Drs. Kerr and Campbell, medical attendants.

The number of patients that have been admitted, amounts to 93, of whom 48 have been cured. There were 7 inmates on the 8th November 1821.

**BISHOP'S HOSPITAL.** This hospital was founded by Bishop Dunbar, in the year 1531, for the reception of 12 poor men, where they might say their prayers, and count their beads, without molestation. The building was situated near the cathedral, Old Aberdeen, and was 100 feet in length, and 32 feet in breadth, having a belfry and small spire in the centre. The house and grounds belonging to it were sold several years ago, and the price was appropriated to the common funds, which are at present upward of £2000 sterling. During the periods of popery and episcopacy, the affairs of the hospital were conducted by the bishop, dean, and chapter; but, after the restoration of presbyterianism,

the patronage and administration of the funds were vested in the principal and sub-principal of King's College, together with the minister of Old Machar. The number at present receiving support is 18.

**MITCHELL'S HOSPITAL** is situated in Old Aberdeen, and consists of one floor, having a refectory, kitchen, and dormitories, neatly fitted up. It was founded in 1801, by David Mitchell, Esq. of Holloway-down, in the county of Essex, a native of Old Aberdeen, for the purpose of maintaining five widows, and five unmarried daughters of burgesses of Old Aberdeen. The principal, sub-principal, and professor of divinity, in King's College; the provost, eldest baillie, the two ministers, and convener of the trades, for the time being; were appointed trustees and governors.

**GERARD'S CHARITY-SCHOOL.** This school was founded on the 19th November 1766, by Bishop Andrew Gerard, successor to Bishop William Dunbar, for the purpose of teaching poor children, not exceeding 30 in number, "to read the Bible, or any other plain book." The endowment is £220; the interest of which, at five per cent., was to be laid out as follows: £6 to a schoolmistress; £2 : 10s. for rent of a school-room; and £2 : 10s. for the purchase of books to be distributed among the children. The eldest town's minister, and the eldest baillie, for the time being, are patrons of the charity. Mrs. Wilson, Huntly-Street, has been teacher for many years.

**THAIN'S CHARITY-SCHOOL.** This school was founded by Mr. James Thain, merchant in Aberdeen, in the year 1788, for the purpose of affording the elementary branches of education, to the children of poor inhabi-

tants of the city. The sum originally destined for this charity was £400; but, on the death of the founder, it was augmented to £1000. The master has a salary of £40, and a dwelling-house; an assistant being allowed him, who has a small salary. The present number of scholars is 170. The trustees, who consist of the four town's ministers, and five other gentlemen, meet for the admission of scholars, on the first Saturday of every quarter.

**DAVIDSON'S CHARITY-SCHOOL.** The late Mr. John Davidson, goldsmith in Aberdeen, bequeathed the sum of £1000 to the provost, and master of mortifications, for the time being; the youngest town's minister, and minister of Footdee-Church, as trustees, for erecting a school in Footdee, in which the children of poor seafaring people might be taught the elementary branches of education *gratis*. Accordingly, a house was built in 1821, consisting of two floors; one of which is to be devoted to boys, under the care of a master, and the other to girls, under the care of a mistress. The girls are to be taught reading, writing, sewing, knitting, and spinning. Both boys and girls, being 108 in number, are as yet under the instruction of the master. The Lancasterian mode of teaching has been adopted; and the children meet in the school for religious instruction, and are conducted to Footdee-Church, twice every Sunday.

**UNITED FUND.** The United Fund for the support of the poor in Aberdeen, was established in the year 1768, having been formed by the junction of several funds, which were previously under separate management. The supply granted from this fund being scanty, many

of the poor were reduced to the necessity of begging in the streets ; but in consequence of the evils springing from such a mode of obtaining a livelihood, a society was formed by the inhabitants in 1815, for the suppression of street-begging, and for raising a fund by annual subscription, for supplying the wants of the truly indigent. Inconveniences having arisen from the operations of these distinct institutions, a union of the funds was agreed on, to continue at least for one year, commencing on the 1st May 1818.

Many years ago, a public kitchen was established, for supplying the poor with soup and bread ; but was occasionally discontinued. It was also joined to the united fund in 1817 ; but its operations ceased in 1820.

The INCOME of this institution arises from four sources, *viz.* 1st. Rents, interest of money, and feu-duties of part of the lands of Elsieck, part of the lands of Skene and Echt, and of some property in the Gallowgate:—2d. Collections made at the different places of worship in the city:—3d. Donations, legacies, and other incidents ; the last legacy of any consequence being the residue of Alexander Simpson, Esq. of Collyhill's property, after deducting £14,400 of his other legacies ; and 4th. Subscriptions by the inhabitants, designed for the suppression of street-begging, &c. The EXPENDITURE consists of the following particulars ; 1st. *Monthly Table*, in which are enrolled those paupers who, from age or other disability, are likely to continue chargeable on the fund during life ; the number being 322 at the end of 1821, and their allowance varying from 2s. to 6s., and rarely 7s.:—2d. *Occasional supplies* granted to those, from the support of whom there is



'some prospect of being relieved ; their number being 773 at the end of 1821 :—3d. *Orphans and deserted children* ; the present number of whom is 30 :—4th. *Soup-kitchen* ; at present discontinued :—5th. *Coffins* to deceased poor, being 60, 'at an average, yearly :—6th. *Annuities* granted to a few paupers, in consideration of small sums of money conveyed by them to the fund :—7th. *Clerk's salary, stationary, and incidents* :—8th. *The deficiencies of the Poor's Hospital*, for the education and maintenance of poor boys. The expenditure of the United Fund for 1813, was £1683 : 11s : 6d., and for 1821, £2464 : 6s : 1d. It was the opinion of the general meeting which was held in May 1821, that an additional sum of £1200, would be requisite in order to place the United Fund on a firm basis, and avert the necessity of an assessment.

**BURNETT'S FUND FOR THE POOR OF ABERDEEN.** Mr. John Burnett instituted this fund, which he administered himself until the year 1784 ; since which time, the fund has been under the direction of trustees, who have applied it according to the design of its Founder. In the year 1821, there was distributed among 194 pensioners, the sum of £264 ; each person receiving an allowance from 20s. to 36s. It may be proper to observe in this place, that the above-mentioned fund amounts to little more than one-third of what Mr. Burnett bequeathed for pious and charitable purposes. In 1815, the original stock, along with what had accumulated, produced £700. Another class of objects includes the poor residing on his own landed property, which descended to his heirs. A third class comprehends the poor within the bounds of the county

and synod of Aberdeen, the latter of which contains 96 parishes. A sum not less than £20, nor greater than £50, is to be given to each parish, in yearly succession; the amount to be regulated according to the extent of the parish, &c. When a rotation has taken place, the distribution is to begin anew, and circulate in this manner for ever.

**BURNETT'S PAUPER-LUNATIC FUND.** Mr. Burnett, not unmindful of that unfortunate class of the community, who suffer from a deranged state of intellect, bequeathed for their benefit the sum of £200 sterling, which was to be allowed to increase, until his trustees should think fit to bring it into operation. The fund exceeds £1200; and still continues in a state of accumulation.

**PRISON-CHAPLAIN FUND.** Mr. Burnett, lamenting the destitute state of our prison, as it regarded the religious assistance afforded to its unfortunate inmates, set apart £100 sterling, as an accumulating fund, until it should produce £20 per annum, which he designed to be given as a salary to a clergyman for performing the duties of a prison-chaplain. About 20 years ago, the late Alexander Ross, Esq. sunk £1000, in the hands of the town's treasurer, the interest of which was to be given to a chaplain, whom he himself appointed, and to his successors, who are to be appointed by the magistrates. Mr. Thom of Gordon's Hospital, was nominated by Mr. Ross, and continues to perform the duties of his situation in a praise-worthy manner. Mr. Burnett's fund has produced £20 annually for some years past, and which have been given to Mr. Thom.

**ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.** An asylum for the sup-

port, and education, of a certain number of blind persons, is to be established in Aberdeen, in the course of next year, in consequence of a bequest made by the late Miss Cruickshank, of Dee-Mount, of the produce of shares of royal mines, and money in the public funds, which she destined to be devoted to this benevolent purpose, under the direction of her executors, as trustees of the fund.

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## XV.

### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

**VACCINE-INSTITUTION.** Mr. John Burnett set apart £200 sterling as a fund for promoting inoculation; vaccination being then unknown. The fund had increased so as to produce £30 per annum by the year 1803, when the Vaccine-Institution was established in Aberdeen. Mr. Burnett's trustees thought they could not apply the charity more conformably to the Founder's intentions, than by devoting it to the support of this useful Institution. The whole expenses have been defrayed annually from this source.

The lord provost, for the time being, is governor, and Dr. Ewing, physician, of the Institution. Inoculation is performed *gratis* every Wednesday and Saturday, at the Poor's Hospital. Upward of 5000 patients have been inoculated.

**GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE**

**DEAF AND DUMB.** In the year 1817, Mr. Kinniburgh, teacher of the "Edinburgh Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor," paid a visit to Aberdeen, along with some of his pupils, whose attainments in knowledge and articulation attracted the particular attention of several friends of humanity. A society, accordingly, was soon after formed; at first intended as an auxiliary to the Edinburgh Institution. Certain reasons, however, induced the members to establish a similar one in Aberdeen. In pursuance of this purpose, Mr. Robert Taylor, who had finished the course of his studies at the University, was sent to Paris in 1818, in order to be instructed in the plan of teaching the deaf and dumb practised in the Institution conducted by the celebrated Abbé Sicard. In the meantime, a house was fitted up for the purposes of the Institution, and on Mr. Taylor's return in 1819, opened for the reception of pupils. A house in Schoolhill, which belonged to Mr. Gordon, of Murtle, has lately been purchased for the sum of £700 sterling, only the interest of which can be met by the funds of the society. Since the institution was opened—Whitsunday 1819, there have at various times been admitted 15 pupils, of whom 8 are supported partly at the expense of the society. There are two classes of pupils, one at the sum of £16 yearly, the other at a sum not under £32, fixed by the committee proportionately to the accommodation, &c. required. In the present state of the funds, no children are received on the higher class unless the whole board be paid by their friends; and none, on the lower class, for whom half the board, at least, is not paid from

other funds than those of the society: clothes and washing being furnished by the friends of both classes, and bedding by those of the higher class.

The business of the society is conducted by a committee of directors, consisting of the lord provost, for the time being, who is president, and convener of the committee; the treasurer of the society; the directors for life; and fifteen ordinary and fifteen extraordinary members, who are chosen annually by the general meeting: the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly being patron. A donation of five guineas, or an annual subscription of half a guinea, constitutes the donor or subscriber a member of the society.

**SAVINGS-BANK.** The Aberdeen Savings-Bank was established in the year 1815; and owes its origin to the urgent recommendation made by the Rev. Principal Baird of Edinburgh, for the adoption of the plan contained in the pamphlets written on the subject of Savings-Banks by the Rev. Henry Duncan of Ruthwell. Since the period of its commencement, it has steadily and progressively increased, until there are now (1st May 1822) 1354 depositors, who possess upward of £13,204 sterling. The Institution is under the management of 24 directors, two of whom, with the treasurer, attend every Saturday-morning at 9 o'clock, at the office in the Poor's Hospital, where deposits are received from 2s to £5, until the sum amounts to £40 sterling, interest being allowed at the rate of four per cent. per annum. The Institution has recently been placed under the protection of the Parish-Bank Act of the 59th Geo. III. cap. 62.

## XVI.

## BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

*Humane Societies.*

**SOCIETY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE CLERGY.** This society was instituted in the year 1792, for the purpose of affording pecuniary relief to orphans of the clergy of the Church of Scotland, and of the Chapels of Ease; and to those of professors in the Scotch universities. The distribution for the year preceding June 1821, was £322, among 45 indigent families.

**SICK MAN'S FRIEND.** This society was instituted in 1792. The objects of the charity are indiscriminately the sick poor, male and female; the most necessitous to be preferred. Its funds arise from donations and subscriptions. The yearly expenditure is above £200. Females receive fully three-fourths of the distributions.

**FEMALE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF AGED AND INDIGENT WOMEN.** This society was instituted 12th December 1804. It is wholly conducted by benevolent ladies. The committee consists of 6 managers and 6 visitors, both being elected half-yearly. The rate of members' subscriptions is not limited, but 1s. 6d. per quarter is the lowest. The present number of indigent females receiving aid from the society is upward of 200; the most of whom receive 2s. 6d. once in 6 weeks, and are all visited by the ladies at their own humble, and in most cases, comfortless dwellings.

**SHIPWRECKED SEAMAN'S FUND.** This fund was in-

stituted in 1815, in consequence of the loss of several vessels with all their crews, among which were the Thames, London smack ; the brig Caledonia ; and the schooner Providence ; as they were making the port of Aberdeen. A fund, named as above, was immediately set on foot. The stock is about £2000. Upward of 70 widows and families were relieved last year ; among whom £200 were distributed.

ABERDEEN CLOTHING-SOCIETY was instituted in 1817, and is conducted by ladies, who humanely visit the confined and filthy habitations of the poor, inquire into their wants, and mercifully clothe the naked and destitute. The sum expended by the society in 1821 was about £112.

THE LADIES' FUND was established in July 1818 ; the object of which is to assist the wives of tradesmen, day-labourers, &c., during the period of their confinement in child-bed, by the loan of a box of linen, containing articles of clothing for mother and child ; by supplies of gruel, beer, caudle, &c. ; and by small sums of money, where the case may appear to the visitor to be one of peculiar distress. No woman receives assistance during her first confinement. Old clothes are thankfully received. Needle-work, by ladies that have spare time, is solicited.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, instituted in 1820, for the purpose of relieving real distress, either by money or clothes.

DISPENSARIES. These are supported by voluntary contributions. They differ from most other institutions in this circumstance, that the more labour which the physicians bestow, the less remuneration they receive.

Dr. Henderson has given, in a pamphlet, very powerful reasons for a junction of these charities. Dr. Dyce is physician of the dispensary in Marischal-Street; Dr. Fraser, School-hill; Dr. Campbell, Netherkirkgate; Drs. Moir and Leslie, marine dispensary, James-Street; and Dr. Cadenhead, Gilcomston.

**PAROCHIAL PAUPER-LUNATIC FUND.** This fund was instituted in February 1820. Collections are made for its support, by the various congregations in the parish of St. Nicholas. The management is vested in the ministers of the congregations which collect for its support, together with an elder or manager of each congregation. The income for 1820 and 1821, was £416, of which only £9 were given in donations. The number of patients received from the commencement, is 27. The present number maintained in the Asylum by this fund is 14; and the charge for each patient is £15 per annum.

**REPOSITORY FOR FEMALE INDUSTRY.** This institution is under the superintendence of several ladies. The object is the disposal of female dress, made by industrious females. We are sorry to learn that this institution does not meet due encouragement. *That benevolence which promotes industry, and preserves the natural independence of the human mind, is certainly of the best kind.*

#### *Education-Societies.*

**THE ABERDEEN SUNDAY-SCHOOL SOCIETY.** Soon after the worthy Mr. Raikes, of Gloucester, had called the attention of the public to his system of Sunday-instruction, designed for the benefit of children, the



clergy, and some benevolent individuals in Aberdeen, took into their consideration, the ignorant state of many young persons attending the manufactories, and other public works in our city, and resolved on establishing Sunday-schools, in which children might be taught reading and music, together with catechisms. Accordingly, on the 12th November 1787, a society was established under the title prefixed. The schools were originally 8 in number. They afterward increased to 10, but they have lately diminished to 6. The number of scholars at present is 380. Four of the schools are attached to the Established Church, one to St. Paul's, and one to St. Andrew's chapel. In the two last, the Episcopal catechisms and prayer-book are read and committed to memory. In those attached to the Established Church, the Scriptures are read, and the Assembly's and Watts' catechisms are learned. The teachers and scholars of all the schools, meet forenoon and afternoon on Sundays, and proceed to those churches where accommodation has been provided for them. They meet again in the evening for instruction. The teachers are paid for their labour. The schools are supported by occasional collections made throughout the town, by gentlemen; by legacies bequeathed by individuals; and by the interest of £440, vested in the managers of the Poor's Hospital. The committee of management consists of the magistrates, clergy, and a certain number of contributors.

EDUCATION-SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING EDUCATION ON THE SYSTEM OF MUTUAL INSTRUCTION. Mr. Joseph Lancaster, having visited Aberdeen in the month of August 1815, and lectured in the College-hall, and the

Congregational Chapel, George-Street; exhibiting, at the same time, the practical benefits resulting from his system, by exercising a female school of industry which had been organized on his plan, drew the attention of several respectable gentlemen of our city. A meeting was accordingly held in the hall of Marischal-College, on the 22d August, Rev. Principal Brown in the chair, when it was resolved, "That a society to be called *The Aberdeen Lancasterian Institution*, be formed in this city, for the purpose of establishing and supporting schools conducted on the principles of Mr. Lancaster's system, in which the children of the poor and labouring classes shall be taught *gratis*, if their parents wish it, or at such low fees as they may choose to pay." On the 16th November the designation of the society was changed to *The Aberdeen Society for Schools on the New System*, and on the 25th April 1820, the title was once more altered. The school was opened in Harriot-Street, on the 26th September 1816, by Mr. Robertson the present teacher. In the course of a few days, the number of boys amounted to 200. On the 4th February 1817, the number was 403; and consequently it was necessary to occupy another floor of the house, and to obtain another teacher. On the 18th October 1818, it was resolved that every scholar should pay 1d. per week. In 1821, a feu was taken in Blackfriars-Street, and a house erected, measuring 80 feet by 45 within walls, and capable of containing 700 scholars. The expense was £693 : 6s. The number of scholars at present is about 450. One master manages this number with the greatest ease. The master's salary is £50, and half of the fees.

**FEMALE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY, *Union-Terrace.*** This school was instituted on the 28th March 1811, by a lady, who deserves gratitude from many of the poor of Aberdeen. The school was organized on the Lancasterian plan, in the year 1815. The number of scholars is limited to 100, unless in peculiarly urgent cases. The children are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, &c. They meet every Sabbath-evening, for the purpose of being examined on the portions of Scripture, committed to memory during the week. No catechisms are taught. A certificate must be signed by a minister, attesting the poverty of the applicants. The fees vary from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter, according to the ability of the parents. The lady, who had superintended the establishment for these 11 years past, having left Aberdeen, the school has been put under the superintendence of a committee of 12 ladies, and under the inspection of two clergymen of the Church of Scotland.

**FEMALE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY, *Chronicle-Lane.*** This school was commenced about 1813, by two ladies who had taken part in the management of the last mentioned institution. It is conducted on the old plan of teaching. A few ladies and gentlemen patronize this useful school. It is, however, under the immediate direction of a benevolent lady, to mention whose name we should be happy to have had permission. There are at present about 100 scholars, some of whom pay fees to the amount of 5*s.* per quarter; others, smaller fees; and some are taught *gratis*. In both institutions, great attention is paid to the cleanliness, morals, and deportment of the children.

**AUXILIARY SOCIETY FOR EDUCATING THE POOR IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.** This society was instituted in 1820, as an auxiliary to the Inverness Society.

*Religious Societies.*

The following table consists of societies formed in our city for the purpose of aiding the general diffusion of religious knowledge.

DESIGNATIONS.	When Instituted.	Amount of Contributions.		
		£.	s.	d.
1. Auxiliary Missionary Society, (originally instituted in 1796, in aid of the London Society,) in aid of the London and Scottish Missionary Societies,	1818,	500	0	0
2. Penny-a-week Auxiliary Missionary Society,	1812,	100	0	0
3. Methodist Missionary Auxiliary Society,	1816,	110	0	0
4. Auxiliary Society in aid of the Baptist Mission, Translations, and Schools in India,	1816,	155	0	0
5. Female Missionary Society,	1819,	70	0	0
6. Auxiliary Bible-Society,	1811,	3100	0	0
7. Footdee Bible-Association,	1814,	200	0	0
8. Marine Bible-Association,	1818,	225	4	0
9. Female Bible-Society,	1819,	184	0	0
10. Female-Servant Society,	1808,	240	0	0
11. St. Nicholas-lane Missionary Society,	1815,	110	0	0
12. Trinity-Chapel Association,	1816,	337	14	0
13. Aberdeen Society, in aid of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Bartlett's Buildings, London,	1819,	136	13	2
14. Association of Students in Divinity at Aberdeen,	1820,	40	0	0
15. Bible and Missionary Association of the Antiburgher-Congregation, Belmont-Street,	1820,	55	0	0
16. Gilcomston Chapel of Ease Association,	1820,	18	0	0
17. Association for Promoting Christianity among the Jews,	1820,	30	0	0
18. Associate Philanthropic Society, Netherkirkgate,	1822,	10	10	0
19. Aberdeen Hibernian Association, in aid of the London Hibernian Society,	1820,	93	0	0

**RELIGIOUS TRACT-SOCIETY.** In August 1797, a society was formed in Aberdeen for the distribution of religious tracts. It continued till May 1802. Two years after the formation of the above-mentioned society, the London Religious Tract-Society was formed. In 1811, a second society was instituted in Aberdeen, under the designation of *The Religious Tract-Society*. The design of the society, is to circulate *gratis*, as extensively as possible, the tracts of the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Tract-Societies. The objects of the society's benevolence are soldiers, sailors, prisoners, sick persons, &c. They dispose of their tracts under prime cost to hawkers, in order that these may be induced to buy them on terms equal to those on which they can procure ballads, &c. There are two committees; one for selecting tracts, and the other for managing the business of the society. The funds of the society are considerably increased by the voluntary contributions of the crews of several vessels belonging to Aberdeen. The number of the tracts distributed by the Society is 479,000.

**GRATIS SABBATH-EVENING SCHOOL-SOCIETY.** In 1797, Mr. John Campbell, iron-monger in Edinburgh, now the celebrated traveller in Africa, introduced an improved method of sabbath-school instruction in that city. Mr. John Leslie, a correspondent, entered into his spirit and views, and set on foot sabbath-schools in Huntly and its neighbourhood. Soon after, a few of Mr. Leslie's religious friends in Aberdeen caught the flame which had been thus spreading, and entered into consultation for the establishment of sabbath-schools in Aberdeen. While these benevolent persons were

trembling under a sense of the magnitude of the projected work, Messrs. Coles and Page, two young men who belonged to the Particular Baptist denomination, arrived from England, with the intention of prosecuting their studies at Marischal-College; and infused fresh courage into those friends of the young. Accordingly, Mr. Coles opened the first of the schools under the direction of this Society, on the 31st December 1797; Mr. Page, another, in the course of a week; and Mr. Andrew Hay, a third, in a very short time after. The Institution has, amidst impediments and difficulties, proceeded steadily and prosperously. Not a few of their pupils have died happy in Jesus; many are at present active teachers in sabbath-schools; a considerable number have become respectable and useful members of civil and religious society; and several have gone forth as ministers of the gospel at home, and as missionaries among the heathen abroad.

The society is in connexion with the Sabbath-School Union for Scotland. The children are taught to prove the doctrines of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism from Scripture. They have 27 schools containing about 1500 children, instructed by about 40 teachers. The expense for 1821 was nearly £60. There are juvenile libraries belonging to the schools, which contain about 700 volumes.

**FEMALE SABBATH AND WEEK-DAY SCHOOL-SOCIETY.** This society was instituted in 1821, and is supported and conducted solely by ladies. All the teachers and scholars are females. There are 10 schools, 29 teachers, and 630 scholars. Bibles and New Testaments have been given to some of the scholars, most of whom pay

for them by penny-instalments. A juvenile library is about to be formed, in aid of which, contributions will be received from the children after the same manner.

**GILCOMSTON SABBATH-SCHOOL SOCIETY.** This society was organized in January 1814, in consequence of a legacy left by Mr. William Alexander, dyer, for the behoof of the schools connected with the Chapel of Ease, Gilcomston. The legacy amounted to £89 sterling. The schools were set on foot in the year 1811. The present number of schools is 7; of teachers 22; and of scholars 400.

A Missionary Society was set on foot in the old town about two years ago; and a Bible Association about nine months ago.

#### *Friendly Societies.*

**LITSTERS OR DYERS' SOCIETY.** The litsters were acknowledged as a corporation in 1501. This society is small but opulent. Its funds consist principally of the accumulation of property left to it by Archibald Bean, dyer, about the middle of the 17th century.

**SHIP-MASTERS' SOCIETY.** In the year 1598, the ship-masters and mariners belonging to Aberdeen formed themselves into an association under the title of *The Ship-Master and Mariner-Box*. The association received a charter from King James VI. in 1600, authorising them to levy certain rates from vessels entering the port, under the denomination of *prime gilt*. This tax continued to be exacted till about the year 1777. A new charter was obtained in 1801, which erected them into a corporation, under the designation of the *President and Society of Ship-Mas-*

*ters of Aberdeen.* This society distributes yearly £600 sterling and upward.

**NARROW-WYND SOCIETY.** This society took its title from a narrow passage, leading into Castle-Street, that existed before the formation of Union-Street, one of the sides of which is still entire, and lies eastward from the bottom of Broad-Street, along that range of shops, one of which is occupied by the publisher of this work. The Society was instituted in 1660. Its members are numerous and highly respectable.

**SOCIETY OF PORTERS.** The porters of Aberdeen formed themselves into an association for affording pecuniary assistance to their decayed and indigent members in the year 1666. Five porters were sworn to be responsible for all goods committed to their charge in the year 1522. Their wages were regulated by an act of the town-council. They are still under municipal control and regulation.

**MASON-LODGES.** These are the Aberdeen lodge, St. Machar's, St. Nicholas', St. Andrew's, Old Aberdeen, St. Luke's, Operative, St. James's, St. George's, consisting of 1600 members and upward. Contributing members pay 4s. annually. The entry-money varies in the different lodges from £1 : 10s. to £3 : 3s. sterling.

**BARBERS AND WIG-MAKERS' SOCIETY.** This society was instituted about the year 1674. They had obtained a seal of cause, so early as 1537. It possesses a good deal of property in the town.

**MERCHANT-SOCIETY, OLD ABERDEEN.** This society was instituted in 1680, and is very respectable.



The above are the most remarkable of the Aberdeen Friendly Societies; but there is a great number besides these, of which we can take no notice.



## XVII.

## COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

*Banks.*

THE ABERDEEN BANKING COMPANY. In 1752, a bank was erected in Aberdeen by several of the principal citizens, who were engaged in commerce and manufactures. They commenced business on a limited scale, in an office on the north side of Castle-Street; but after the trial of a few years, they thought it proper to relinquish the concern. Soon after the Thistle-Bank of Glasgow introduced a branch into Aberdeen, whose agent was abundantly liberal in advancing money upon cash-accounts, and discounting bills and promissory notes. This speedily promoted the circulation of paper-currency, both of this bank, and others in the south; but the consequence was, that specie which had formerly been abundant, now became unusually scarce. To remedy this inconvenience, several noblemen and gentlemen of distinction in the county, and many respectable citizens in Aberdeen, projected a scheme of raising, by subscription, a fund for the purpose of instituting a bank in the town, upon a liberal and extensive plan. Accordingly in the course



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of the year 1766, the sum of £72,000 sterling was subscribed, in shares of £500 each, as a capital to be employed for the purposes of the undertaking, the shares being declared to be transferable. On the 1st January next year, the bank was opened. By the original contract, which was to subsist for 19 years, the management of the company's affairs was vested in a governor and 18 directors, who were to be annually chosen by the proprietors at a general meeting. The capital stock of the bank is now £100,000. A share is worth upward of £1500. James Brand, Esq., who was the accountant when the bank was established, has been the cashier since 1793. Alexander Morice, Esq. has lately been appointed joint cashier, and Mr. Brand's successor. The bank has a branch in Huntly, Keith, Elgin, Banff, Fraserburgh, and Peterhead.

• The business of the bank is conducted in an elegant house, built about 20 years ago, according to a design furnished by Mr. James Burn, architect, Haddington. "The front is of polished granite, ornamented with Ionic pilasters, cornice, and balustrade on the top."

**ABERDEEN COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY.** This bank was instituted, in the year 1788, by several of the citizens who were engaged in commerce and manufactures. The present cashier is Alexander Chivas, Esq., who has been in office since the year 1800.

**BRANCH OF THE BANK OF SCOTLAND.** This branch was introduced into the town about the year 1780. The present agent is Peter Duguid, Esq.

**BRANCH OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.** This branch was formed about the year 1812. Its agent is Alexander Blackie, Esq.

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### JOHN MABERLY AND Co's. EXCHANGE AND DEPOSITE-BANK.

#### *Insurance-Offices.*

These are numerous—there being not fewer than 24 agents in the city who transact business in fire and life-insurance. Both of these branches of business were tried by some respectable individuals belonging to Aberdeen, about 1801 and 1803, but were soon after dropped in consequence of the successful rivalship of the agents of other societies.

Sea-Insurance was extensively carried on during the late war, but it is now greatly diminished.



## XVIII.

### DOMESTIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

#### *Inns, Taverns, and Hotels.*

THE NEW INN, *Castle-Street*. This building was erected in 1755, and has been kept for several years by Mr. Anderson. It is a large and commodious house, and much frequented.

THE ROYAL HOTEL, *Union-Street*, is kept by Mr. Dempster, and is in no wise inferior to the former.

LEMON-TREE TAVERN, *Huxter-row*. This tavern

was kept for many years by Mr. George Ronald, and is still carried on by his widow.

MASLIN'S HOTEL, *Queen-Street*, is the same house that was for many years occupied by the late Mr. Adams.

All of these Inns are of the first rank, and not exceeded by any in Scotland for the comfort afforded, and the variety and elegance of the entertainments.

### *Public Markets.*

FLESH-MARKET. In the year 1806, the corporation of fleshers erected at the east quarter of the town a commodious set of buildings for slaughter-houses and stalls. The slaughter-houses are fifteen in number. The stalls consist of two ranges, one range containing 38 stalls, 12 feet square; and the other, 48 stalls, 10 feet square; having a pavement 4 feet broad. The expense of building and fitting up amounted to £5000, which was defrayed by the funds of the trade. The revenue is £331 per annum.

NEW FLESH-MARKET, *George-Street*. This market was erected in 1816 by the proprietors of the Lochlands, and other subscribers. It consists of 42 stalls, each 13 feet by 12 feet, having a pavement 5 feet broad. The roof of the stalls is supported by cast-iron pillars. The fleshers who attend this market are not members of the corporation.

In both markets, meat is sold only on Friday and Saturday; but in 1821, a market was opened in the Gallowgate, on a small scale, for the *daily* sale of meat, and another daily market, on the same scale, in Chapel-Street, besides in one or two other quarters of the town.

**MEAL-MARKET.** This market lies to the west of King-Street, in a line with Littlejohn-Street. It consists of three sides of a square court, having a wall and door in front.

**POULTRY, FRUIT, AND VEGETABLE-MARKET.** This market is only used on the weekly market-day, which is Friday, for the sale of butter, eggs, poultry, &c. There are also sold in it, all descriptions of fruit and vegetables that are produced in the neighbourhood. These are sold also in Castle-Street and King-Street, during the other five days of the week. A general market is held in the Green every Friday.

**FISH-MARKET.** In former times, the fish-market was held in Castle-Street. To avoid the nuisance which was thus produced in the place of resort by men of fashion and business, the magistrates appropriated, in the year 1742, as a fish-market, a piece of ground in the Shiprow, close by the river. The market is well accommodated with sheds and stalls. Findon haddocks, an article generally esteemed on account of the excellent manner in which they are prepared, are sold every lawful morning in Castle-Street.

### *Weigh-House.*

A public weigh-house was erected upon the old quay, about the beginning of the 17th century. This establishment is a branch of the treasury of the town, producing an annual revenue of about £150 sterling.

The Aberdeen pound-weight for meal, iron, salt, and honey, is equal to 17 oz.  $6\frac{1}{8}$  dr. The peck of meal weighs 8 lb. 11 oz.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  dr. The pound of butter weighs  $28\frac{1}{3}$  oz. The chalder of meal is nearly an English ton,

being only  $2\frac{1}{4}$  less. The boll of coals weighs 36 stones Amsterdam weight. The boll of lime or lint-seed, is equal to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  English bushels. The heaped peck of malt, or oatmeal-sids, is equal to half an English bushel. The Aberdeen pint contains about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a gill more than the Stirling jug, or Scotch standard-pint. The excess of the Aberdeen corn-measure above the standard-measure, is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

### *Powder-Magazine.*

This magazine is erected on the Gallow-hills, for the reception of gunpowder, imported into town by dealers in this article, as, by an act of parliament, there can be no more than 4 lb. kept in any shop within the city. The expense of erection was £320 and upward, paid out of the ordinary police-assessment. It is consequently under the management of the commissioners of police.

### *Cold and Warm Baths.*

It is generally allowed, that there is not in the whole kingdom a better situation for sea-bathing, than that of the beach at Aberdeen. The water is extremely pure, and the beach, for a considerable distance, presents a beautiful even surface of fine hard sand. In the year 1815, Mr. James Walker established 14 bathing-machines on the beach, and added, next year, 6 more to the establishment. Few conveniences of modern invention were more needed, as the promiscuous bathing of both sexes was previously almost unavoidable. This, however, is now completely prevented, as the machines appropriated to the different sexes are placed at a suit-



able distance. The price of a ticket for the season is only 10s. 6d., non-subscribers are charged 6d. for every time they use a machine.

In 1817, Mr. Walker established warm and shower-baths. One of the establishments is on the beach, and the other on the quay. The baths on the quay are supplied with water from the sea, by means of a large decked boat containing a well. The warm baths on the quay are 2s., and on the beach 1s. 6d. each time; the shower-baths 8d. and 9d. each time.

### *Travelling-Accommodations.*

A most remarkable change in our mode and conveniences of travelling, has been effected in the course of the last 50 years. Before that period, land travelling was generally performed, either on horse-back, or in a common cart or rude one-horse chaise, with a driver in front. It is only 70 years, since the first four-wheeled carriage was kept by any gentleman in the city or neighbourhood; Colonel Middleton, of Seaton, having introduced one about 1750. In 1763, two post-chaises were established, for the convenience of travellers; and about 1770, the first stage-coach between Aberdeen and Edinburgh began to run. It was called the Fly; and required two days for the performance of the journey, resting one night at Perth. If travellers had occasion to continue their journey to London, there was only one stage-coach, which set out from Edinburgh once a-month, for London, and consumed 12 to 16 days upon the road. At present, the journey to Edinburgh is performed in less than 16 hours by the mail, and 18 hours by the stage-coach,

and the whole journey from Aberdeen to London, is performed by the mail in 2 days and 19 or 20 hours. With regard to journeying by sea, the change is equally considerable, not only from the introduction of a new power in the propelling of vessels, but also from the superiority of modern seamanship. The vessels that carried passengers to London, seldom performed more than 4 or 5 voyages in the course of the year ; and their departure from the port was generally announced 3 or 4 weeks before the time of sailing. People set out on a voyage to London with as much formality, as they now do on a voyage across the Atlantic ocean. At the present time, we have 13 vessels that are employed in the London trade, 3 sailing every week, some performing from 12 to 14 voyages in the course of a year. Even the passage to Leith, which frequently occupied 3 or 4 days, is now, by the introduction of steam-vessels, usually performed in 12 hours, and sometimes in  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hours. There are employed in Aberdeen at present, upward of 15 post-chaises and street-coaches, of a most handsome description, and 10 mail and stage-coaches, as given in the following table. The number of private carriages is considerable. As already remarked, Aberdeen had but 2 post-chaises 59 years ago, and now it has two coach-manufactories.

*List of Mail and Stage-Coaches.*

DESTINATION.	NAME.	Place of Starting.	Departure from Aberdeen.	Arrival at Aberdeen.
Edinburgh and London,	Royal Mail-Coach,	{ Anderson's and } Dempster's, }	½ past 8, P. M.	4, P. M.
Perth and Edinburgh,	Prince Saxe Cobourg,	Dempster's,	6, A. M.	7, P. M.
Do.	Strathmore Telegraph,	Anderson's,	6, A. M.	8, P. M.
Inverness by Banff,	Royal Mail-Coach,	{ Anderson's and } Dempster's, }	5, P. M.	½ past 7, P. M.
Do. by Huntly,	Do. do.	Do. do.	5, P. M.	½ past 6, P. M.
Do. do.	Duke of Gordon,	Anderson's,	½ past 6, A. M.	½ past 9, P. M.
Huntly,	Aber. and Huntly Com. Coach,	Maslin's,	½ to 8, P. M.	½ past 11, A. M.
Peterhead,	Royal Mail-Coach,	{ Anderson's and } Dempster's, }	5, P. M.	4, P. M.
Do.	Earl of Errol Coach,	Gray's,	5, P. M.	11, A. M.
Kincardine O'Neil,	Aberdeen and Braemar Coach,	Red Lion,	8, A. M.	5, P. M.

**STEAM-YACHTS.** Two beautiful vessels of this description, the *Velocity* and the *Brilliant*, are employed in carrying passengers and light goods between Aberdeen and Leith. During the summer-months they sail regularly four or five times a-week. From October till March, they are laid up. During this and the former season, they have generally performed the voyage in 12 hours, and sometimes in  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The accommodation on board of these vessels is excellent; and every thing is done to ensure the safety and comfort of the passengers. The fare to Leith is 18s. for the first cabin, and 12s. for the second. Passengers are received, or landed, at most of the intermediate ports.

**LEITH PASSAGE.** There are four vessels in this trade. These sail regularly every four or five days all the year round, and are fitted up in a superior style for the accommodation of passengers.

**PASSAGE TO AND FROM LONDON.** There are two companies in this trade. The Aberdeen and London Shipping Co. have nine very fine smacks from 107 tons to 174 each. Two of their vessels sail regularly twice a-week. The other company—the Aberdeen and London New Shipping Co. have four vessels, of the same description, one of which sails every week. The vessels belonging to both companies are fitted up with every attention to the comfort and convenience of passengers.

Besides the foregoing establishments, there are regular traders to Glasgow, Newcastle, and Hull, which carry passengers.

## XIX.

## MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

**WOOLLEN-MANUFACTURES.** So early as the year 1703, a company was established in Aberdeen for the manufacturing of woollen cloths, intended both for foreign and home consumption; but during the greater part of the 18th century, the knitting of stockings was the principal branch of manufacture carried on in Aberdeen. Towards the close of this period, however, the demand for this article of manufacture had almost entirely ceased. At present, Messrs. Alexander Hadden and Sons carry on this business, on a rather extensive scale, but it seems to be confined chiefly to them. A considerable addition, however, has been made to our manufactures, in consequence of the introduction of machinery into the carding and spinning of wool. Before 1789, these were done entirely by manual labour; but since that period, in addition to the coarse cloths formerly manufactured, we have now broad and narrow cloths, made of considerable fineness. The principal establishments for this manufacture are, those of Alexander Hadden and Sons; Crombie, Knowles, and Co.; and Thomas Black and Son.

**LINEN-MANUFACTURES.** These have been extensively carried on in Aberdeen since 1749. Linen-threads, and yarns, linen-cloth of various kinds, such as shirtings, osnaburghs, and sail-cloth, are manufactured from the raw material, on a very extensive scale, by Messrs. Leys, Mason, and Co.; Milne, Cruden, and

Co.; and John Maberly, Esq. London. These three establishments have extensive spinning-mills. That of Messrs. Leys, Mason, and Co. is situated on the left bank of the Don, about two miles from the town; and those of the other two are situated in the north part of the city; their machinery being driven by steam.

The spinning of linen-yarn by the wheel also, is still carried on to a considerable extent. A great part of the female population of the northern counties, are generally employed, during a portion of their time, in the spinning of yarn for the manufacturers and yarn-dealers in the city. Dr. Skene Keith, in his very valuable survey of Aberdeenshire, estimates the wages paid for this article in 1808 to be upward of £35,000.

**COTTON-MANUFACTURE.** The manufacture of cotton was introduced into Aberdeen in the year 1779, by Messrs. Gordon, Barron, and Co., who still carry on the business on an extensive scale, and are, we believe, the only house in Scotland who import the wool, spin it into yarn, and weave, bleach, and print their goods. These various branches of the cotton-manufacture they carry on, at their establishment in Belmont-Street, and at their works at Woodside, distant about two miles from the town, and situated on the right bank of the river Don. They give employment to upward of 3000 persons of both sexes.

In the year 1800, another company was established, under the firm of Messrs. Forbes, Low, and Co.; but the business is almost entirely confined to the spinning of cotton-yarn, which they dispose of in the Glasgow market. Their spinning-mill is situated in the south-west part of the city, and is driven by steam.

During the late war, a considerable number of persons were extensively engaged in the manufacture of cotton-yarn into various descriptions of cotton-goods, which were disposed of chiefly in the home-market, but most of these persons have now given up the trade, in consequence of the innumerable losses which they sustained by the almost general bankruptcy of the country, and the smallness of the profits compared to the risk, owing to the competition of persons in the trade, who had little or no capital.

As connected with the linen and cotton-manufactures of the city, we may mention that of the manufacture of tapes by the Aberdeen Tape Company.

**PAPER-MANUFACTURE.** This is said to have been introduced into Aberdeen so early as 1696, by Patrick Sandilands of Cotton. At present there are three or four paper-manufacturies in town; those of the Messrs. Pirie, and Charles Smith and Co.; and that at Peterculter, are the principal.

**BREWERIES.** There are three extensive breweries for the manufacture of porter, &c. viz. the Gilcomston, Devanha, and Old Aberdeen Breweries, besides several others of less extent.

The limits of our work prevent us from taking particular notice of other manufactures, such as those of ship-building, rope and sail-making, the manufacture of chain-cables, the tanning of leather, and extensive iron-founderies, &c. carried on in the city and neighbourhood.

**SALMON-FISHERIES.** The fishings on the rivers Dee and Don are of considerable importance. The annual rents of both rivers being upward of £10,000: the

rents of the Dee being to those of the Don in the proportion of three to one. The fishing-season commences annually on the 11th December, and ends on the 19th September. The fish are for the most part packed with ice, and afterward sold in the London market. In April and May, they are considered to be in perfection, and during these months, the price is generally 1s. 6d. per lb. Gilses, which make their appearance in June, are sold at 4d. per lb., and continue during the remaining part of the fishing-season.

**WHALE-FISHERIES.** These were attempted so long ago as the year 1752, but without success. Within the last 20 years, however, the trade has been extensively prosecuted, in some instances successfully, in others not. At present, there are 14 vessels employed, from 248 to 363 tons each, and having upward of 700 men. Of late, however, the trade has proved, in general, unproductive to the owners; and it is very probable, that, if any other channel could be discovered for the employment of the vessels, a considerable number of them would be withdrawn.

**STONE-TRADE.** This branch of trade in Aberdeen has been, both as a manufacture and as an article of commerce, of very considerable advantage to the city. It has afforded employment to a great number of people, by the preparation of the stones for the market; and proprietors of lands have drawn considerable sums of money from a source that otherwise would never have produced a penny. The shipping-interest has thereby been greatly promoted, as appears from the custom-house returns for the year ending 1st July 1821, from

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which we find that there were exported 41,000 tons, the value of which was upward of £40,000.

So long ago as 1764, the superiority of the granite-stone of Aberdeen, had attracted the attention of Messrs. Adam, then eminent architects in London, as particularly suited for paving the streets of the Metropolis. It continues to be used to the present day for this and other purposes, both in the Metropolis and its neighbourhood; and has been employed in the building of some of its lately erected bridges, and in the erection of the national works at Sheerness.

SHIPPING. In the year 1788, the number of vessels registered at the port of Aberdeen was 169; their tonnage being 11,820: but in the course of the wars subsequent to the French revolution, the number and size of the vessels were greatly increased. During these wars, Aberdeen furnished a number of very fine vessels for the transport-service, and a great deal of money was made by individuals engaged in this trade. The increased intercourse between Aberdeen and our colonies in North America, tended also to the increase of the shipping, so that, in the year 1818, the number of vessels registered at Aberdeen, was 237; their tonnage, being 36,471. Since that period, however, the quantity has decreased, for last year (1821) there were only 222 vessels, the tonnage of which was 34,235. Of this quantity, about 4000 tons are employed in the whale-fisheries, 5000 tons in the foreign trade, 3000 tons in the trade between Aberdeen and London, and the remainder in the coal, lime, and coasting-trades.

Notwithstanding the extensive quantity of tonnage which still belongs to this port, the shipping-trade was

never in more depressed circumstances. It has suffered more than almost any other branch of commercial industry; and yet, we believe, not more so, than that of the other ports of the kingdom. The *sudden* transition from a state of war to a state of peace, has been frequently assigned as the real cause, not only of the distressed situation of the shipping-interest, but that of the country in general; this, however, has been true only to a very small extent. It is the transition *itself*, just as the lessened expenditure of a spendthrift operates to the pecuniary disadvantage of his panders in vice and folly. A lesson, however, is read to the country by its present distresses, which we trust will not be soon forgotten; that how profitable soever those sources of trade may be, either to individuals, or to particular parts of the country, which a state of war creates; yet, eventually, their very creation must operate to the disadvantage of the real interests of the nation. Of the truth of this, a stronger instance cannot be afforded than the present state of the shipping of Aberdeen. During the continuance of the war, unnatural sources of lucrative enterprise were created, which have since been swept away by the return of peace; and among such sources, the one which has affected the shipping-interest of our city most deeply, was the demand for vessels employed by government in the transport-service. A great number of these vessels belonged to Aberdeen; and so long as the war continued, they were a very profitable concern; but now, such vessels are very seldom, if at all, employed. New sources of employment could not be created; and hence, they have since been thrown into those channels of trade and commerce,

which previously were sufficiently well occupied; consequently, rendering such channels unproductive of advantage either to themselves or others.

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## XX.

### BURIAL-GROUNDS.

OF the various modes of burial which have prevailed in the world, it was Cicero's opinion, that *inhumation* was the oldest; which opinion, the records of history undoubtedly corroborate. *Cremation*, and inclosing the remains in urns, were perhaps never found expedient, till national animosities had given rise to inhuman treatment of the dead. The introduction of Christianity made a great alteration in the mode of burying the dead. *Cremation* ceased.

Among the primitive Christians, burying in cities was not allowed for the first 300 years, nor in churches for many ages after; the dead bodies being first deposited in the atrium or church-yard, and porches, and porticos of the Church. The people, for greater regularity in worship, were taught to look towards the altar, which was placed in the east end; and the dead, for a similar reason, were buried with their faces the same way; except the priests, who were ordered by the same authority to face the congregation. The reason alleged by Gregory the Great, for burying in churches, or in places adjoining to them, was that their relations and friends, remembering those whose sepulchres they be-

held, might thereby be led to offer up prayers for them. Hence too, that striking and solemn address, which marked the epitaphs of the monkish ages: *Orate pro animu miserrimi peccatoris*. To this superstition, and the profit arising from it, we may ascribe the original of church-yards. In the eighth century, the people began to be admitted into them; and some princes, founders, and bishops, into the church. The practice, first introduced into the Romish Church by Gregory the Great, was brought over to Britain by Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, about the year 750: and the practice of erecting vaults in chancels, and under the altars, was begun by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, when he had rebuilt the cathedral there about 1075.

**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH-YARD.** This is the principal burial-place in the city. It is enclosed on all sides with a high wall: that part adjoining to Union-Street, being only a temporary erection of brick, and enclosing an addition which was recently made to the former burying-ground. There are entrances to the ground from the School-hill, Back-wynd, Union-Street, Correction-wynd, and Netherkirkgate.

There are in this church-yard many sepulchral monuments, and tomb-stones; but few of them are worthy of much notice. On the west wall is erected a monument in memory of George Davidson of Pittens, and another, in memory of Dr. William Guild, both considerable benefactors to the city. There is also a monument erected in memory of John Rickart, of Auchnacant, concerning whose generosity we have several times had occasion to relate. The latter consists of a marble-

tablet, under a pediment and entablature, supported by neat columns, with Corinthian capitals, having on its top various emblematical figures. There are in the interior of the church, monuments erected in memory of Dr. Duncan Liddel, Captain John Cushnie, and the late Mrs. Allardyce, of Dunnottar.

**FOOTDEE CHURCH-YARD.** In the year 1650, George Davidson, of Pittens, burgess of Aberdeen, enclosed the ground surrounding the church, for a cemetery, as we learn from a stone which was fixed in the wall bearing the following inscription:—

“ George Davidson, elder, burgess, Abredonensis,  
Bigit this dyk on his own expenses.  
1650.”

The burying-ground was enlarged in 1788, when the present church was built, and enclosed with a wall of moderate height. Of late years, an enlargement was found necessary; consequently, a portion of the minister's glebe was, with the consent of all concerned, set apart, in the year 1819, as an additional burying-ground, equal, or nearly equal, to the space formerly occupied. The whole has been enclosed with a high and substantial wall, through the exertions of a committee appointed for the purpose. It is believed that the produce of the ground-lairs, which are disposed of at very moderate rates, will soon pay off the debt which has been incurred, and repay the Incumbent and his successors, for the part of the glebe thus alienated. Part of the expense of building the wall was paid by subscriptions, made at the above-mentioned period.

**QUAKERS' BURIAL-GROUND.** As has already been mentioned, the Friends set apart a piece of ground on the east side of the Gallowgate, near the old castle, for a burying-ground. Their successors still occupy the same place for the same purpose. Here we have no monuments or grave-stones, but, as it might have been expected, the ostensible simplicity of this sect of Christians, is carried even to "the house appointed for all living."

**OLD MACHAR CHURCH-YARD.** This place is very spacious, neatly laid out, and surrounded with a wall on every side. Many of the graves are ornamented with neat marble-stones and tablets, having appropriate inscriptions.

On the west wall is a tomb with an entablature supported by Doric columns, which was erected in memory of Mr. John Harrow. Near the south aisle is a handsome tomb, recently erected in memory of Alexander Gerrard, D. D. and his son Gilbert Gerrard, D. D. Both were successively professors of theology in King's College, and eminently distinguished for their learned and critical writings.

There are several neat marble-tablets in the interior of the church. The tomb erected to the memory of Bishop Scougal, is deserving of the notice of the stranger. It is erected on the west end of the church, and is still in a good state of preservation. In the centre of the tomb, the effigy of the Bishop appears in high relief, and on each side, the figure of a young man, and in the back ground a burning torch. The mitre and crosier are finely cut on the pedestal. The entablature is supported by two beautiful columns with Corinthian

capitals; and on it again appear the mitre and crosier with the Bishop's armorial bearings and motto, over which are placed three flaming urns.

**SNOW CHURCH-YARD.** As has been mentioned in another part of this work, Bishop Elphinston erected a church on the south side of the Old Town, and dedicated it to *Maria ad nives*. After the Reformation, the church, with the parsonage and vicarage, was granted by King James VI. to King's College. A cemetery surrounded the church, which, it appears, was the only burying-place in ancient times. The cemetery has been ploughed up; but the site of the church is still used as a burying-place by Catholics of ancient and wealthy families. The bodies of some of their bishops, and many of their priests, lie here; and it is supposed that none but Catholics have ever been buried in this place. The fees form part of the revenue belonging to King's College; but we understand that the clergy have been allowed to be buried *gratis*.

**SPITTAL CHURCH-YARD.** This is a misnomer. There never was a church in that part of Old Machar, known by the name of the Spittal. Bishop Kyninmunde, indeed, founded a Poor's Hospital, in the reign of King William the Lyon, within the walls of the present burying-ground, dedicated to *St. Peter the chief of the apostles*. It was also intended that masses should be celebrated in it for the soul of King William, those of his ancestors and successors, and also the soul of the Founder. This ancient hospital suffered in the general overthrow of Catholic institutions at the time of the Reformation. The site of the hospital is appropriated, as a place of sepulture, to the family of Moir of Scots-

town; to which the burying-ground and adjacent lands belong. Many families, both of New and Old Aberdeen, have their burying-places here. We understand that the present proprietor (Alexander Moir, Esq. sheriff of the county) devotes to charitable purposes the produce of the fees paid at this cemetery.

## XXI.

## POPULATION.

In the year 1400, the population of the city was about 3000

1560,	about 4000
1633,	about 8000
1643,	about 9000
1688,	about 6000
1755,	was 10,488
1801,	was 15,057
1811,	was 21,639
1821,	was 26,484

However, the population of the two parishes, comprehending Old and New Aberdeen, was in the year 1821 as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Nicholas' parish,	11,650	14,834	26,484
St. Machar, do.	7,945	10,367	18,312
	<u>19,595</u>	<u>25,201</u>	<u>44,796</u>



It may be thought by some, to be an impropriety in the arrangement of our work, that we have deferred noticing the subject of the population of Aberdeen, until we had described the *burying-grounds* belonging to it; but we doubt not, that some may discern, even in *this*, a mark of that attention to arrangement, which we hope will appear throughout the whole. We have not merely noticed, it will be seen, the *present* population of the city, but *that* also of *past ages*; and in those few receptacles of sepulture which we have described in the preceding section of this work, those generations of men that have preceded us in the march of time—have all been consigned. It has been remarked, that the surface of our principal burying-ground is very considerably raised, particularly on the south-side, above the ancient level of the ground. What a lesson to the vanity and pride of man! Those forms which were once decked, cherished, and doated on, while blooming in all the embellishments of youth, health, and beauty, now serving to swell the mould of our burying-grounds!

“ Like leaves on trees the race of man is found,  
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground,  
Another race, the following spring supplies,—  
They fall successive, and successive rise:  
So generations in their course decay,  
So flourish these, when those are passed away.”

## FINIS.

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GLASGOW:

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*Directions to the Binder for placing the Plates.*



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16. Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, . . 75.
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18. Aberdeen Bank, . . . . . 205.

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ERRATA.—Page 83, the 2d line, for “the aisles bewided,” read  
“the aisles are divided.”

— 149, line 8th from the bottom, for “1819,” read  
“1818.”











